

Sudan denies rebels took town

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan denied Sunday that rebels had captured the important southern town of Kapoeta and said it was considering creating "peace villages" to protect civilians in the war-torn south. The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) quoted the minister of state for defence, Fadallah Burma Nasir, as saying government troops were in control of Kapoeta, 1,200 kilometres south of Khartoum in Equatoria province. The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said last week it had captured Kapoeta after a three-day battle. The town is one of the biggest in Equatoria after the regional capital Juba. SUNA also quoted Burma as saying the government was studying the setting up of so-called peace villages to protect civilians in the south. He said the villages would be set up around Juba and two other major towns in the south, Wan and Malakal. Inhabitants would be provided with food, health care and shelter, he said. The SPLA, fighting what it sees as domination of the country by the Muslim north, draws most support from the mainly Christian or animist south.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز مؤسسة سياسية

Gulf leaders receive King's messages

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The leaders of three Arab Gulf states Sunday received messages from His Majesty King Hussein. The messages dealt with the current Arab situation, developments in the Gulf region and bilateral relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The messages were delivered by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, who visited Saudi Arabia Saturday and delivered a similar message in King Fahd Ibn Abdul Azz of Saudi Arabia. Qasem flew to Qatar early Sunday and delivered King Hussein's message to the emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani. The Royal Court chief arrived here later and delivered a similar message to the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Qasem left for Bahrain later in the day and handed over the King's message to the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa. Petra did not give further details of the King's messages to the Gulf leaders.

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Fahd confers with senior Iraqi official

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd held talks Sunday with a senior Iraqi official who delivered a message from President Saddam Hussein, officials said. They gave no further details. Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, flew to Riyadh from Kuwait where he delivered a message from President Hussein to Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah which dealt with the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Iraqis link Tigris and Euphrates

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has opened a 65-kilometre canal linking the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. The canal, built by Iraqi companies with Soviet advice, cost 104 million dinars (\$333 million) and will supply the Tigris with water from the artificial Tharibar Lake in the dry season. The agency said more than 61 million cubic metres of earth were moved and 157,000 cubic metres of concrete were used to complete the project, 80 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Egypt to hold arms fairs in UAE, Iraq

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, striving to promote its military industry in the Arab World, will soon hold arms exhibits in the United Arab Emirates and Iraq, the national Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Sunday. Displays similar to one recently staged in Kuwait will be held in Abu Dhabi at the end of January and in Baghdad during early April, the agency said. MENA said a number of Arab delegations would be visiting Cairo shortly to discuss cooperation on military production projects.

British woman sentenced to 25 years in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — A 50-year-old British woman was jailed for 25 years at hard labour by an Egyptian court Sunday for smuggling heroin. Maureen Paleschi, from Cleveland, northeast England, was convicted of bringing about six kilograms of the drug, hidden in a wooden elephant, into Egypt last February. Defence lawyer Raouf Mahdi argued that one of the four Egyptians accused in the case, Mohammad Nizai, gave the elephant to Paleschi as a present in Karachi and she was unaware of its contents.

Iran hangs 4

NICOSIA (AP) — Four people were publicly hanged in Iran Sunday for setting off car bombs in two Iranian cities, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. One man, Reza Nazari, was hanged in Imam Khomeini Square in central Tehran, the agency reported. It said he was an "Iraqi spy" who had driven vehicles from Iraq and delivered them to his accomplices in Tehran, where they were rigged with explosives. The agency's brief dispatch gave no details of the three bombings except that they were "near the railway station and two other busy streets of the capital." It said "many" passersby were killed but gave no figure.

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Occupation army blocks food supplies to camps

Arab protesters clash with Israeli troops, set bus ablaze near Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian demonstrators clashed with Israeli soldiers and an Israeli bus was set ablaze by a petrol bomb Sunday in the sixth week of anti-occupation protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

An Israeli army spokesman said the Jelazoun, Tulkarm and Farah refugee camps and the town of Salbit in the West Bank remained under curfews clamped last week. In the Gaza Strip, seven of a total of eight refugee camps were under military curfew.

Workers for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) sent emergency food supplies into several of the Gaza camps, but the army said they could only be distributed once the curfews were lifted.

A senior U.N. official said there were severe food shortages in several camps, reducing the majority of families to one meal a day. Some 500 UNRWA employees staged a sit-in strike at the U.N. headquarters in protest.

Israeli court stays order to expel 4 Gazans

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's supreme court Sunday temporarily blocked the expulsion of four Palestinians accused of leading anti-occupation protests in the occupied Gaza Strip. Judge Shlomo Levin ordered the army to show cause why the men should be expelled. The four are Mohammad Abu Samra, 26, Frej Al Kheiri, 39, Hassan Abu Shaqra, 37, and Khalil Quqa, 39.

The Israeli military originally served expulsion orders on nine Palestinians, four from Gaza and five from the West Bank. Four of the West Bankers were expelled to Lebanon last week after refusing to take their cases to the Israeli military appeals tribunal, which they denounced as a charade.

The fifth is awaiting a ruling by the tribunal. The supreme court frequently grants temporary stays of expulsion, but usually allows them to go ahead once it has heard the army's explanations.

However, the four men's Israeli attorney, Felicia Langer, told the AP that this time the government might rescind the expulsion orders because of international pressure. The U.N. Security Council has denounced Israel for ordering the expulsions. The Israeli army maintains the nine are prime "instigators" of the protests that have swept the West Bank and Gaza Strip since Dec. 8. The four whose cases were heard Sunday deny the charges.

One West Bank Palestinian was injured when rubber bullets were fired by troops in the Balata refugee camp. Army helicopters dropped tear-gas grenades in Birzeit to disperse protests there, sources said. In Beit Al Fouka, near Nablus, a petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli bus, setting it on fire but causing no injuries.

Leaders of two Gaza refugee camps under curfew appealed to the Israeli army to ease the restrictions and free detainees and were told that first "order" must be restored.

In the Israeli cabinet, criticism was levelled against authorities over the storming of the Haram Al Sharif Complex, Islam's third holiest shrine, Friday. However, the Israeli government voiced renewed support for the army's much-criticised handling of the Palestinian protests.

The labour minister, Moshe Katsav, said workers from southern Lebanon and Europe, as well as Israeli high school pupils, would replace thousands of people from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who have been unable to work since protests began on Dec. 9.

Palestinians who work inside Israel's pre-1967 borders have been prevented from travelling to their jobs by the military curfews as well as protesters who have set up road blockades and thrown stones at vehicles trying to leave the occupied areas.

The army last week adopted the new tactic of economic siege by putting all eight Gaza refugee camps and six of the 15 in the West Bank under at least partial curfew, preventing Arabs from going to work. "People are starving. They

(Continued on page 3)

Red Cross renews call on Israel to revoke expulsions

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The head of the Red Cross delegation in Lebanon urged Israel Sunday to reverse its expulsion of four Palestinians from the occupied West Bank.

The deportees continued their open-ended sit-in at the Red Cross centre in southeast Lebanon through a third straight day, demanding they be allowed to return home. They have been receiving an average of 1,000 well-wishers a day, police said. "The Red Cross through its own channels is asking that this illegal (deportation) measure be cancelled in compliance with the Geneva convention," said Dominique Gross, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The four deportees were expelled to South Lebanon Wednesday, accused of being leading anti-occupation protesters that have raged in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since Dec. 8. Gross told the AP in an interview at his office in west Beirut that the ICRC headquarters in Geneva was dealing directly with the Israeli government on the cases of the four deportees.

"So far, I haven't been informed by my Geneva headquarters of any agreement reached with Israel to allow the deportees to return home," Gross added. Gross said the ICRC's means of pressure on Israel were limited, "but the 165 nations that signed the Fourth Geneva convention in 1948 are responsible (for seeing) that its rules are respected."

A separate ICRC statement in Beirut said the Red Cross would provide facilities to enable the four deportees to communicate with their families in the West Bank. The statement said the four deportees told the ICRC they were determined to carry on their sit-in at the Red Cross centre in the southeast Lebanese town of Ksara "until they are allowed to return to the occupied territories."

Jordan denounces Israeli violence at Haram Al Sharif

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Minister for the Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin Sunday condemned the Israeli police's actions at Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock mosques in Jerusalem last week.

Dudin also condemned Israel's measures against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. In an interview with the AP, Dudin accused the Israelis of trying to prevent the Palestinian people practising Friday prayers in the holy shrines in Jerusalem.

He said, "We condemn the harsh Israeli measures against innocent Palestinians there." Dudin added that "Israel is using techniques that the international community is looking down upon and condemning... the shrine is sacred not only for Muslims in Jerusalem, but also Muslims all over the world."

On Friday, hundreds of Israeli soldiers and policemen charged into Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock mosques. (Reports from Jerusalem said that at least 70 Palestinians were either wounded or suffered from effects of tear-gas.)

"Palestinians will never stop fighting for their freedom or expressing themselves... unless they feel Israel's desire to go to the negotiating table," Dudin told the AP.

Sheikh Mohammad Shakra, head of the Al Aqsa Mosque affairs, said that Israel "planned to violate the holiness of Al Aqsa Mosque on Friday.... they

violated earthly and heavenly rights, ignoring international laws."

Sbeikh Shakra told the AP that the Israelis were "aiming at suppressing the Palestinian will and creating despair in the hearts of Arabs who live on their own soil, especially after they failed to put an end to the uprising."

Iraq reports repulsing Iranian offensive on Kurdistan

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq dismissed as "mere lies and exaggeration" an Iranian claim Sunday that Iranian forces had seized strategic heights in the Kurdistan mountains, killing or wounding 1,500 Iraqis.

A statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the Iraqi armed forces had repulsed the Iranian attack, inflicting heavy losses on the Iranians. Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) had quoted a military spokesman as saying Iranian forces captured a chain of heights and now controlled 110 square kilometres of Iraqi land.

The agency said the Iranian forces in the Mawat border region 270 kilometres north of Baghdad braved "mine fields, bony traps and barbed wire fences."

The attack was launched early Friday, both sides said. There was no explanation for the two-day delay in announcing the fighting, and the reports could not be independently checked.

The reported offensive in the craggy northern mountains came amid threats from Iran last week to escalate military operations against Iraq.

In a Sunday dispatch from the battlefield, IRNA said Iranian forces captured six villages and about a dozen strategic heights overlooking Mawat.

INA quoted a military spokesman as saying Iraqi forces pounded the attackers with all available weapons, inflicting heavy losses. It said the spokesman dismissed the Iranian claims as lies and exaggerations.

"All that has been mentioned in the Iranian reports of areas they reached or losses they inflicted on Iraqi forces are mere lies and exaggerations," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the Iranians had not been able to achieve their aims in three days of fighting, adding: "This battle, the same as other battles, will be settled in Iraq's favour."

Iran reportedly has massed as



Marwan Dudin

Delegation leaves to attend Tunis talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel's attempts to seize Arab water resources in the occupied territories, the situation in Palestinian refugee camps and the future of the university graduates in the West Bank and Gaza, are among the main subjects to be discussed by representatives of Arab countries supervising the affairs of Palestinian refugees during a meeting in Tunis on Tuesday. Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Occupied Territories Affairs Ahmad Qatanani, who will represent Jordan at the week-long meeting, left Amman for Tunis Sunday at the head of a delegation comprising two members officials from his ministry.

According to an official statement here, the meeting, to be held at the Arab League headquarters, will also discuss the demographic changes in the Jewish and Arab populations of Palestine, continued Jewish emigration to Palestine and counter-emigration, as well as ways to present the Palestine case at the United Nations Organisation.

According to the statement, the issue of Israel's attempted seizure of the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDEC) will be discussed by the meeting which groups representatives of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab League.

Israel last week began supplying power to Jewish customers in Jerusalem's walled Old City, cutting off Jewish homes in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank from a grid operated by the JDEC, thus curtailing its operations.

The Jordanian government earlier decided to grant JDEC a new 60-year concession, beginning Jan. 1, 1988, to counter Israel's repeated attempts to reduce the concession area of the Arab owned company.

Senior Tunisian official visits Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — A senior Tunisian Foreign Ministry official met Sunday with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, the first official meeting between the two countries since the change of government in Tunisia last November. Following the meeting, Al Tayeb Al Sabhani said he was here at the invitation of the Egyptian government and his talks had centred on the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. Tunisia is one of six Arab countries which have not joined other states in restoring relations with the Cairo government, severed more than eight years ago. The new government of President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali has said it would resume diplomatic ties "when the time is ripe."

End in sight to Lebanon's bloody 'camps war'

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuters

BEIRUT — The Amal militia's decision to lift a siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon has a good chance of ending a conflict in which at least 2,500 people have died, analysts said Sunday.

Nabih Berri, leader of Amal, Lebanon's largest Muslim militia, said Saturday his decision was a goodwill gesture in support of Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Earlier truces have collapsed without substantially easing the suffering of 30,000 residents of the three shabby shantytowns but a Lebanese political source said Berri was now under strong pressure from Arab states. "The 'camps war' has created enmity between Amal and some Arab states which accused it of killing Palestinians. Berri is eager to regain Arab sympathy by his new gesture," the source said.

The sources said the blockade was embarrassing for Berri at a time when the attention of the world was focused on the plight of the Palestinians.

"How can he justify the blockade imposed by his militia on our people when Israel is killing, harassing and arresting Palesti-

nians in the occupied land?" a Palestinian source asked.

The source said Berri's initiative followed secret exchanges between Syrian officials and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which started late last year.

The contacts focused on ending the siege by Amal — Syria's main ally in Lebanon — and improving relations between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and PLO leader Yasser Arafat. Syria has backed Amal's efforts since 1985 to block any resurgence of Palestinian military power in Lebanon which was virtually erased by the 1982 Israeli invasion.

But Syrian troops moved in last April to end the bloody Amal-Palestinian conflict and a seventh-month total blockade of the camps was partially lifted so women and children could fetch food and medical supplies.

Berri said Saturday freedom of movement at the camps would be guaranteed by observer groups comprising Palestinian, Amal, Lebanese and Syrian representatives.

He did not say when the decision would be implemented. The Amal and Palestinian sources said Berri's unilateral action had more chance of success than previous negotiated agreements because it was not linked to the withdrawal by Palestinian fighters from positions east of Sidon which they occupied in October 1986.

Fadlallah denies talking to British paper

Waite could be last hostage to be freed

BEIRUT (R) — British church envoy Terry Waite, kidnapped a year ago this week, may well become the last of the hostages still held in Lebanon to be freed.

Western diplomats and a senior Muslim militia source familiar with Waite's case said prospects for his early release were dim because of the British government's refusal to bargain and because of his value to his abductors.

"Every hostage has his government or party to negotiate his freedom — Waite has no one but God," said the militia source. He told Reuters that Waite, one of 24 foreigners still missing in Lebanon, would be the last to get out unless his freedom was bought with concessions. London says it will not bargain.

Waite disappeared on the night of Jan. 20 last year while on a mission to free American hostages.

He left his seat on the Beirut to Amman flight to meet the shadowy, Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad (holy war) group and was not seen again.

"He was negotiating for the release of American hostages but himself became the biggest fish in the hands of the kidnappers to use as a bait to force Western states to meet their demands," the militia source said.

He and nine American hostages could wait for their freedom until after November's U.S. presidential elections, when an administration more able to negotiate might be in office.

The tall, bearded lay aide to the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie was a major public figure, having already helped to free Westerners held in Iran, Libya and Lebanon.

He returned to Beirut at the summons of Islamic Jihad, which still holds Americans Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, defying warnings from friends and experts not to go.

The sources said Islamic Jihad offered him the one thing Waite would never refuse — a face-to-face meeting with the hostages. "He fell into the trap," said one source.

Those who knew Waite in Beirut said he naïvely fell prey to his own taste for drama and risk.

Security sources said Waite was being held in the poor, semi-autonomous Shi'ite southern suburbs of Beirut — a hotbed of anti-Western, pro-Iranian militancy.

His kidnappers have lodged no demands but the militia source said they want weapons for Iran, the withdrawal of British and U.S. warships from the Gulf and freedom for some of the 17 Arabs held for bombings in Kuwait.

The militia source and a Western diplomatic source said the 47-year-old troubleshooter was at an overriding disadvantage because the British government would not deal for his freedom.

plomatic source said.

Meanwhile a pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim cleric denied on Sunday a British newspaper report quoting him as saying Waite would not go free as long as President Reagan held office.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, the spiritual mentor of Hizbollah, (Party of God) said the alleged interview with him, published in the Sunday Express, was fabricated.

The newspaper cited Sheikh Fadlallah in a front-page story saying radical groups hoped to humiliate Reagan by holding Waite, who disappeared last January while on a mission to negotiate the freedom of other Western captives.

"The Sunday Express report was fabricated, false and unfounded. Sheikh Fadlallah did not give any interview to the Sunday Express on Waite or other hostages," said a statement issued by Fadlallah's office.

The newspaper had quoted him as saying that "only when Reagan has left the White House will people even begin to consider discussing terms for freeing Waite and the others."

Fadlallah has repeatedly condemned the hostage-taking in Lebanon.

The Sunday Express said the interview, to mark the first anniversary of Waite's kidnapping on Jan. 20, was conducted by telephone on Thursday.

It said Fadlallah acknowledged he had close contacts to Waite's kidnappers but would not say who his contacts were.

The newspaper said Fadlallah told it that Waite was held in a private clinic in west Beirut, expecting to negotiate the release of U.S. journalist Terry Anderson and academic Thomas Sutherland. Once there, he was seized on suspicion of working for U.S. intelligence.

Deal for Cordes foiled

In a separate development, West German hostage Rudolf Cordes began his second year of captivity in Lebanon on Sunday as a senior Lebanese security source said a recent deal for his release collapsed when Iran demanded weapons.

Three months of negotiations which would have brought freedom for Cordes and American journalist Terry Anderson ended abruptly at the end of December, he said.

"Iran stepped in at the last minute when it found out about the deal and agreed to it only if West Germany supplied it with arms, chemical substances for weapons, and spare parts," he said.

There was no way of verifying the comments of the source but he has proved reliable in the past. The West German embassy in Beirut was not available immediately for comment.

U.S. drops warrant for Abu Abbas

ROME (R) — The United States has dropped an arrest warrant for Palestinian leader Mohammad (Abu) Abbas over the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro, U.S. and Italian officials said on Sunday.

"We decided we did not have enough (evidence) at the moment to take him to trial," U.S. Justice Department spokesman Patrick Korten told Reuters in Washington.

Korten said the decision to withdraw the warrant, on charges of hostage-taking and piracy, was made during a periodic review of outstanding terrorist cases. He said the decision had also been influenced by Abu Abbas' conviction in absentia by an Italian court to life imprisonment for masterminding the hijacking.

Korten was responding to questions about remarks by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti in an interview in the newspaper La Repubblica on Sunday, in which he hinted the decision was some weeks old but had not been publicised.

"I had great satisfaction when, some weeks ago, American justice authorities revoked the arrest warrant for Abu Abbas. I didn't read it in the newspapers but it is a fact," he said.

The Achille Lauro was hijacked in the Mediterranean in October 1985 and held for three days before the four Palestinian hijackers surrendered.

Washington said at the time it had substantial evidence that Abu Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), was directly involved in the hijacking. It also offered a reward of up to \$250,000 for information leading to his capture.

Abu Abbas was with the hijackers when an Egyptian airliner taking them from Cairo to Tunisia after their surrender was forced by U.S. fighter planes to land in Sicily.

Italy, citing lack of evidence, refused to hold him and turned down a U.S. extradition request, causing a crisis in relations with Washington. He was put on a flight to Yugoslavia, which also refused to extradite him.

Italian authorities later gathered what they said was sufficient evidence to try Abu Abbas in his absence.

Andreotti, who was foreign minister at the time of the Achille Lauro hijacking, told La Repubblica that the affair constituted "without doubt the most difficult moment" in U.S.-Italian relations.

Sixteen defendants, including the four hijackers, were put on trial in Italy in 1986 on charges linked to the Achille Lauro seizure. Ten of them were tried in their absence.

At an appeal hearing last May, sentences were upheld against 11 of the accused, including Abu Abbas. The remaining five had either been acquitted or already served their terms.

Palestinians debate forming government-in-exile

BAGHDAD (AP) — Yasser Arafat and his senior aides, spurred by violent protests in Israeli-occupied territories, are pondering whether to form a government-in-exile to add weight to the PLO's claim to represent the world's 5 million Palestinians.

"If it will facilitate the realisation of Palestinian aims, we can use it," Arafat said in an interview at his military headquarters in Baghdad.

He has sent envoys to discuss the idea and determine whether enough of the 137 countries that recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a liberation movement will upgrade their recognition to make the proposal feasible.

But there is opposition from some PLO factions and Palestinian intellectuals.

They argue that forming a government-in-exile would impose restrictions on the PLO's war against Israel and that there is no guarantee that enough countries would recognise such a government.

The idea of a government-in-exile clearly appeals to Arafat. Over a lunch of soup, rice and Arabic meat dishes with his senior military commanders, he noted: "If the PLO will declare a government-in-exile, all those who support the PLO will support this in principle."

"It would enable us to overcome some obstacles. The Americans look at the Palestinian cause from a very narrow angle. The refusal of the U.S. administration

to deal with the PLO... is one of our main obstacles," he said. "Those who are against it say this is not the right time and that we should wait a little longer. But in principle, no one is against it — only the timing."

Arafat added: "Because of the uprising some of my colleagues say this is the right time. So, if a government-in-exile would help (sway the Americans), why not?"

The idea of a government-in-exile has been kicking around since the 1950s. The late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat championed it a decade ago, but the concept never got off the ground.

Some of Arafat's aides believe the time is ripe because the violence in the West Bank and Gaza has moved the Palestinian issue, the kernel of the Arab-Israeli dispute, back to centre stage after it had been overshadowed for months by the Iran-Iraq war that threatens the Gulf Arab.

'New political initiative'

At the same time, Arafat has launched a "new political initiative" to neutralise American and Israeli opposition to openly negotiate with the PLO.

The basis of this initiative is recognising Israel within the borders that existed before the Middle East war in June 1967, in which Israel occupied the Sinai peninsula, including Gaza, the West Bank and the Golan Heights.

Poll: Most Israelis back harsh anti-Arab measures

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A significant majority of Israeli Jews back their government's "iron fist" policy towards the Arab rebellion and 40 per cent believe the government is too lenient, according to a poll in Newsweek magazine.

The poll shows that 81 per cent of Israeli Jews surveyed approve of the deportation of Palestinians suspected of responsibility for leading anti-occupation protests in the occupied territories.

About one-third — 32 per cent — of 612 adult Israeli Jews surveyed by telephone said they "don't know" if Israel should grant full citizenship rights to Palestinians, although 72 per cent agreed that if Israel keeps the

occupied territories, Arab birth rates will ensure that a majority of Israelis eventually will be of Arab descent.

Sixty-four per cent of respondents agreed that a settlement of the Palestinian problem is "very important." Twenty-five per cent thought it "somewhat" important and five per cent thought it not important at all.

Asked how the handling of the unrest had affected Israel's relations with the United States, 39 per cent of respondents saw minor damage, 27 per cent saw serious damage and 26 per cent saw no damage.

Newsweek said the margin of error in the poll is plus or minus four percentage points.

Qatar, Bahrain discuss Gulf territorial dispute

RIYADH (R) — The foreign ministers of Bahrain and Qatar arrived in Saudi Arabia on Sunday to discuss a long-standing territorial dispute over a cluster of islands in the Gulf, diplomatic sources said.

The surprise talks in Riyadh followed a Saudi announcement last month that the two Gulf Arab states had accepted its proposal to take the dispute to the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

It said they had agreed that the court's decision would be binding.

The sources said nothing was known about the substance of the Riyadh talks. Bahraini and Qatari officials had no comment.

The row flared up in April 1986 when Qatari troops landed on the disputed Fasit Al Dibal reef and seized 29 foreign workers building a coastal station.

The workers were freed 17 days later after Saudi Arabia's King Fahd intervened. Saudi Arabia has since been mediating to try to resolve the dispute.

Palestinians debate forming government-in-exile

In return, Arafat wants an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza and Israeli-U.S. recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, as endorsed in U.N. resolutions.

The political strategy, linked to the government-in-exile concept, "will pull the rug out from under the feet of the U.S. and Israeli governments," Arafat claimed. "It would leave them with no choice but to talk to us."

Washington has long demanded that the PLO endorse U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which recognises the state of Israel and refers to the Palestinians only as a refugee problem. A government-in-exile would mean that the Palestinians could go to an international conference free of the restraints imposed by the PLO's charter, which calls for a secular democratic state in Palestine instead of Israel, some supporters of the idea argue.

Critics of the government-in-exile concept say Arafat merely seeks to use it to neutralise one of Israel's strategies — to deal with new Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories and encourage them to isolate the PLO.

Close aides to Arafat said he is enthusiastic about the idea but that maintaining the PLO new-found unity after years of disarray is paramount, and that he would shelve the idea if the unity was jeopardised.

Nonetheless, the proposal, despite the political dangers, reflects the optimism that is running through the PLO after months of being put on the back-burner.

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U.S. lawmaker calls for sanctions against Israel

RIYADH (R) — American Congressman Melvyn Dymally has called for sanctions against Israel over its handling of Palestinian revolt, according to comments published on Sunday.

California Democrat Dymally said in a Saudi Gazette interview that the United States should consider sanctions against Israel similar to anti-apartheid measures against South Africa. But he conceded that such a step was highly unlikely.

"I've never been to Soweto. But if Soweto is anything like the West Bank and we have imposed sanctions against South Africa, then we should do the same," Dymally said.

Dymally, head of the congressional "black caucus," drew comparisons between South Africa's suppression of black rights and Israel's reaction to five weeks of Palestinian revolt in the West Bank and Gaza in which at least 39 people have died.

Dymally, on a fact-finding mission, has visited Israel and the occupied areas, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

"First, we need to be pragmatic," he said. "Sanctions are not reality. We will have a major breakthrough if we can get Congress members to recognize the gravity of the situation."

"What I saw (on the West Bank) was frightening. It's a story of urban warfare, it's a story of physical and psychological harassment, but the harassment goes beyond that. There is systematic denial of rights."

ANKARA (R) — A dispute between Turkey and Greece over territorial waters in the Aegean has resurfaced less than two weeks before their prime ministers are due to meet in Switzerland.

In a move which could increase friction ahead of the talks between Turgut Ozal and Greek leader Andreas Papandreu, Turkey said it would send a seismic survey ship, the Firi Reis, to international waters in the Aegean Jan. 28.

"Our scientific surveys have a connection with ... the Davos summit," the director of the Seismological Institute of Turkey Researches University, Erol Dilek told reporters Saturday.

"We are involved in scientific activities carried out under a government decision."

Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz was quoted Sunday as saying he expected Davos-Papandreu talks in Davos to be a turning point in the relationship between the two countries.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:35 Programme review
16:00 Children's programme
16:10 Fory fables
16:20 Paddy Brooker
16:45 Al Mawakeb
17:10 I could do that
17:25 Oliver Twist
17:55 Educational programme
18:15 Arabic series
19:10 Our Army
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Local programme
22:30 Programme on prominent Arab figures
23:00 News Summary
23:10 Prominent Arab figures (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary: "The Splendour of Meqdes"
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine (French)
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Are You Being Served? (Cont. of Unbecoming)
21:10 Moonlighting
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "My Blue Heaven"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & parity on 95.9 KHz, SW

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:45 Just a Minute
11:00 My Music
11:30 Rendings
12:00 News Summary
12:45 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:45 Pop Session Cont.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Special Feature
15:00 Cousin Horat
16:00 News Summary
16:45 Instrumental
16:30 Old Favorites
17:00 Young Sound
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:45 Sports Roundup
19:30 Music
19:50 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* A painting exhibition by German artist Gerhard Richter at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30).

* An exhibition about medical research in France at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 28).

VIDEO

* L'outil et le geste (documentary) at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267
American Centre - 644371
British Council - 641220
French Cultural Centre - 637009
Goethe Institute - 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre - 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre - 620409
Turkish Cultural Centre - 637777
Haya Arts Centre - 665195
Hussein Youth City - 6671816
Y.W.C.A. - 641793
Y.W.M.A. - 644251
Amman Municipal Library - 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library - 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists, Moutaz, Jhal, Luvabid. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 650128.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Lions Philatelic Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Regency Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philatelic Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jhal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815334, 817334.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jhal Amman. Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jhal Luvabid. Tel. 627440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jhal Hussein. Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church (Roman Catholic) Jhal Luvabid. Tel. 622346.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jhal. Tel. 622346.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jhal Amman. Tel. 622383.
chaplain's residence tel. 601359.
Assyrian Catholic Church Ashrafiah. Tel. 711331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafiah. Tel. 717261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafiah. Tel. 717151.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmiciat. Tel. 67534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Sair 81295.
Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Inter-denominational-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 82605. Rev. Vic.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) Tel. 815817, 821264.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Larnaca (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)
09:30 Sam's, Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Dhahran (RJ)
09:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:35 Cambridge, Tunis (RJ)
18:45 Bangkok (RJ)
23:55 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:30 Baghdad (IA)
06:33 Cairo (MS)
11:06 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
13:40 Kuwait (KU)
18:25 Beirut (ME)
19:15 Vienna (IA)
09:30 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
11:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 Paris (RJ)
11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:35 Kuwait (RJ)
19:50 Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
20:35 Baghdad (RJ)
20:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
06:30 Beirut (MEA)
06:30 Frankfurt (LH)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
10:20 Vienna (IA)
13:45 Bahrain (GF)
15:40 Kuwait (KU)
20:15 Baghdad (IA)
01:30 Paris (AF)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Sunday rates
Local sell/buy rates in Jds
Belgian franc: 95.5/108.5
Dutch guilder: 17.9/18.7
French franc: 29.2/30.2
Italian lire: 27.3/28.6
Japanese yen (for 100): 256.5/261.3
Swiss franc: 27.9/29.2
U.S. dollar: 244.8/248.9
U.S. sterling pound: 596/607.2
U.S. dollar: 371/342.1
W. German mark: 199.3/202.9

PRAYER TIMES

05:11 Fajr
06:33 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:06 Dhuhr
14:35 Asr
16:59 Maghreb
18:20 Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold and partly cloudy. Southwesterly winds will become northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with northerly moderate winds and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.
Amman: 21/7
Agaba: 7/15
Dahat: 2/16
Jordan Valley: 3/14
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 6, Agaba 15. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Agaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman Civil Defence 7741179
Civil Defence Unit 772353
Civil Defence Quarters 770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman fire brigade 193
First aid 63044
Blood Bank 778303
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 622055
Municipal water complaints 771258
Police station 192, 62111, 63777
Police headquarters 639444
Traffic police 893901
Electric Power Co. 636814, 624881
Municipal waste complaints 771258
Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 533060

GENERAL

Justice Television 7731179
Radio Jordan 7741179
Ministry of Tourism 642314
Hotel complaints 666472
Price complaints 661176
Telephone information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 64495
Overseas calls 17

Soviet official praises relations with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Director of Soviet Department of Culture and Arts Constantine Morashov said Sunday that His Majesty King Hussein's recent visit to the Soviet Union had contributed to promoting bilateral cooperation and enhanced friendship ties between the two countries.

During a press conference held at the end of the Soviet art exhibition marking the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union, Morashov expressed appreciation to the Jordanian government for hosting the exhibition, which included 90 plates representing all kinds of plastic art in the Soviet Union.

Soviet parliamentarians denounce Israeli measures

Soviet parliamentarians have condemned the Israeli authorities' repressive measures against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and expressed solidarity with them.

Jaber urges preservation of Baqaa basin environment

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber Sunday called on all local councils in the Baqaa basin to preserve the environment and to adhere to building construction regulations.

Addressing heads of local councils in the Baqaa area, Jaber

said that the ministry has finalised a comprehensive organisational plan for the Baqaa basin, taking into consideration preservation of arable land.

Jaber was speaking at Ain Al Pasha, where he inaugurated the new premises of Ain Al Pasha Municipality and reviewed with the municipal council its problems and future plans.

South Korean envoy condemns KAL bombing

By Nermeneh Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The South Korean ambassador to Jordan Sunday strongly condemned what he called "the barbarous mid-air bombing of a Korean Airlines (KAL) flight 858," and demanded that those responsible for the act be "sternly punished."

Speaking at a press conference held at the South Korean embassy here, Dongsoon Park told reporters that it has been established beyond doubt that the bombing was conducted by a pair of North Korean special agents who were trained for a considerable period of time on this special mission as part of their attempt to "disrupt the Olympics and the standing political government in South Korea."

The two agents identified were 70-year-old Kim Sungji, who committed suicide at the Bahrain Airport by swallowing a cyanide capsule; and Kim Hyun-Hee, 26 years old, the daughter of a North

Korean diplomat currently serving in Angola.

According to Park, Kim Hyun-Hee confessed to planting a bomb on Dec. 23, eight days after her arrival in Seoul. Until that time, she had made false statements about her origin in Chinese and Japanese, claiming that she was not Korean.

KAL flight 858 disappeared en route from Abu Dhabi to Seoul with 115 passengers and crew aboard over the Andaman Bay, close to the Thai-Burmese border.

According to Park, investigations have shown that the two agents left Pyongyang on Nov. 12 posing as father and daughter and arrived in Baghdad, where they spent three hours at the airport transit lounge. They then boarded air flight 858 to Abu Dhabi. They took with them a radio time bomb and liquid explosives camouflaged as a piece of carry-on luggage and a liquor bottle.

During the flight, they planted the bomb inside the head rack

Tourist complaint offices to open

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Zahair Al Ajlouni Sunday announced his ministry's decision to open offices for receiving complaints from members of the public and tourists.

He said that the offices, which will be open 24 hours a day, would receive, process and address the complaints.

The Tourism Authority had been receiving complaints from the public about the misconduct of tourist offices and agencies throughout the country. The complaints dealt mainly with the failure of certain agencies to adhere to the programmes outlined in their promotional and informational literature.

According to the minister's statement, members of the public can contact the offices through the following telephone numbers: 642311, Ministry of Tourism; 3633, Tourism Office - Aqaba; 451272, Jerash office; 83030, Petra office; and 08-51256 and 08-51146, Queen Alia International Airport.

U.S. legislator leaves pledging to inform American public about Palestinian plight

AMMAN (Petra) — The current Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip is a natural outcome of continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, American congressman Michael De Wine said here Sunday.

The Congressman, who would spend a week-long visit to Jordan, said he would explain the situation in the occupied territories and the plight of the Palestinians in the refugee camps of the West Bank and Gaza to the American people.

Bank and Gaza to the American people.

The Ohio representative, who visited the occupied territories before crossing into the East Bank, said that he will urge the U.S. administration to take steps to initiate the Middle East peace process.

The situation in the occupied territories will not improve with the passage of time, therefore, serious and intensive efforts must be made towards reaching a durable solution, De Wine said.

Interior Ministry transfers district governors

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani Sunday decided to effect the following transfers among various district governors as of Jan. 20.

Madaba District Governor Rathi Al Majali is transferred to Jerash, succeeding Hussein Al Hahashneh, who will be transferred to Ramtha. North Shuneh District Governor Qufan Shilash is transferred to Aqaba, succeeding Khalil Khreisat, who is transferred to Madaba District.

Faisal Al Khasawneh is transferred from the ministry to Amman Governorate, where he will serve as assistant governor; while Abdul Qader Al Hahabbbeh is transferred from the ministry to Balqa Governorate, where he will serve as assistant governor.

Ramtha District Governor Khalaf Mahasneh is transferred to North Shuneh, and assistant Balqa Governor Issa Mahmoud is transferred to the ministry to head the Licensing and Traffic Department.

Assistant Governor of Maan Mohammad Mustafa Abu Shuwaimh is transferred to Zarqa Governorate, to serve as assistant governor.

Dajani also decided to transfer District Governor Musleh Tarawneh to the ministry, where he will head the ministry's Financial and Administrative Affairs Department.

Voluntary societies more than double, expand assistance during past decade

By Samir Al Yafi
Petra

AMMAN — More than 70,000 Jordanians are working on a voluntary basis for 631 charitable societies throughout the Kingdom, after the number of these institutions more than doubled during the past decade.

Chairman of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib said the number of voluntary and charitable institutions rose to 621 in 1987 from 246 in 1973. They are mainly involved in four types of activity: institutionalised care, child care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and health and education.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Khatib said that GUVS was supervising and, in some cases subsidising, the activities of these various institutions. GUVS financial allocations

to these societies increased from 30,000 in 1973 to JD 330,000 in 1987.

According to Khatib, the general policy of GUVS is to adopt and execute schemes that benefit the country and the people. Therefore, the organisation's main projects are:

— To build a centre for the rehabilitation of 150 to 200 people with multiple handicaps. At present, GUVS is sponsoring 40 people at a multi-handicapped training centre in Amman.

— To set up a national centre for the treatment of cancer patients. So far, GUVS has collected nearly JD 1 million through various fund-raising activities, and a technical committee is currently working on the tender

documents to build the centre's first phase.

Over the past three years, GUVS gave greater attention to developing kindergartens throughout the Kingdom, in general, and in the governorates of Maan, Karak, Tafleeh and Mafrqa, in particular, by providing them with necessary equipment, furniture and computer facilities.

In addition, GUVS has established a number of public parks and libraries for children.

Khatib noted that nearly 100,000 needy Jordanians benefited from a GUVS programme which depends on material and in-kind donations from better-off Jordanian families.

Cabinet forms joint committee delegations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday formed Jordan's delegation to the Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Committee meeting due to convene in Sanaa on Feb. 21.

The delegation, which will be led by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, groups representatives of the ministries of interior, industry, trade and supply, planning, and energy and mineral resources, the Central Bank of Jordan and the Royal Scientific Society.

The delegation to the three-day meeting will be assisted by a technical committee comprised of representatives from the ministries of education, labour, public works, finance and health, as well as the Civil Defence Commission. According to a Cabinet statement, the joint committee will discuss ways to promote cooperation between North Yemen and Jordan.

The Cabinet also formed Jordan's delegation to the Joint

Jordanian-Saudi Arabian Committee meeting due to open in Riyadh on Feb. 9.

The week-long meeting will discuss means for bolstering economic and trade relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, according to the Cabinet statement.

The statement said that the delegation to Saudi Arabia will be headed by the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, and will group representatives from the ministries of industry, transport and telecommunications, interior, and finance and customs, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and the Amman Chamber of Industry.

University of Jordan to create new modern languages section

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan is creating a new section for modern languages at the Faculty of Arts, and plans to admit students to the section as of the second academic term beginning at the end of the month.

The decision was taken by the university's Council of Deans and announced by Director of the University's Languages Centre Louis Muqattash, who said that the new section would provide education and facilities for specialists in modern languages, such as French, German and English.

At present, the Faculty of Arts is studying ways to develop its translation programmes. The Council of Deans has already agreed on a plan enabling stu-

dents to have a dual Arabic-English specialisation. Muqattash noted.

He said that by offering students of English this choice, the university would be helping them to overcome their weakness in Arabic language; and students of Arabic to overcome their weakness in English.

According to Muqattash, the university's planning committee is studying the prospect of allowing students to have dual specialisations in English-French, Arabic-French, English-German, Arabic-German and French-German.

He said that only students from the Faculty of Arts would be admitted to the new section.

Arab-American leader stresses need to counter pro-Israel lobby

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A political vacuum resulting from lack of information has developed in the U.S., allowing those who contribute most to campaign funds to dictate the government's decisions concerning the Middle East, said former Democratic senator from South Dakota and founder of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) James Abourezk.

During a private visit to Jordan, Abourezk told the Jordan Times that the American public did not have too much interest in the Middle East region until recently because they were denied access to the "full story," making it easier for the pro-Israel lobby to manipulate presidential and congressional candidates. "The American people are fair people; but the problem is that they have had facts all from one side — the Israeli side," he said, stressing that it is important for the Arabs to tell their side of the story.

The heavy press coverage which the ongoing uprising in the occupied territories is receiving in the U.S. has broken some of the rules considered sacred in Israeli-American relations, Abourezk noted that the Israelis look at the uprising as a public relations and not control problem, and not as an issue of morality which has resulted from occupation. "Israel was doing what it wanted to do before because no one knew what was happening," he said, pointing out that the Israelis had been killing children all along, and that 3,000 similar incidents had occurred annually for the past four or five years in the occupied territories, "but, it was just this time that the incidents got press coverage."

According to Abourezk, it is difficult to account for the sudden interest of the American media, however he noted that because of the coverage, "the Israelis are rapidly losing support in the U.S. With the uprising, some congressmen and American Jews are criticising Israeli policies."

"The uprising has had a dramatic impact on the American press, and this time they have not been intimidated by the Israeli lobby. Even as the Israelis try to suppress the news, the (American press) are still reporting in a way that makes Israel look bad," Abourezk continued.

Economics was cited as the reason why most congressmen were not yet beyond the manipulation of the pro-Israel lobby. Abourezk explained that because congressmen and presidential candidates are hungry for campaign contributions from this lobby, criticism of Israel are rare;

and more often than not, the candidates will vote against American interest to ensure the inflow funds. "The Israeli lobby in Washington has cleverly manipulated and convinced congressmen and presidential candidates that they can not be elected without them. The lobby gives substantial amounts of money to targeted candidates. The money is given early to get the campaign off the ground, get the candidate better known and, thereby, make it easier for the candidate to raise money," he explained.

The pro-Israel lobby has a "money list" and a "hit list," and, according to Abourezk, if a candidate is not on the "money list," he is on the "hit list." Reverend Jesse Jackson, an outspoken Democrat who is running for the 1988 presidential elections, was the only candidate who denounced the brutal treatment of the Palestinians and voiced a solution to the conflict. Abourezk said, adding that the other presidential candidates had issued only mild criticism of Israeli measures against Palestinians.

Abourezk said that he believes if candidates did not fear the pro-Israel lobby the U.S. would pressure Israel to sit down and negotiate with the Arabs, or Congress would pass a resolution that no financial support would be given to Israel unless they entered the peace process. However, he added that "the U.S. does not include the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as one of the players (in prospective peace negotiations) because they are afraid of the lobby."

Still, since three out of the four options available to the Israelis are considered unacceptable, Abourezk believes that the U.S. will have to force Israel to enter negotiations. An international conference, either under the auspices of the United Nations or a joint U.S.-Soviet Union chairmanship, seems to be the most acceptable option to the U.S., he said. Maintaining the status quo, wherein Palestinians continue to live in misery, annexation of the West Bank and Gaza, and the Kahane solution of expelling the Palestinians are totally unworkable, according to Abourezk. "The only workable solution is to give the Palestinians their state and end the political problem of occupation," he said.

Referring to the efforts the Arab-American community to present the Arab point of view, Abourezk said: "We have an interest in our community to end the conflict, not just as Arabs, but because \$6 billion of our money is pumped into Israel, and it is not in the American interest

to give weapons to the Israelis to kill Arabs."

For its part, ADC has been mobilising Arab-Americans and other, concerned Americans to hold protests and demonstrations in front of Israeli embassy and sending action alerts, in an effort to persuade the American government to use its influence with Israel to stop the shooting of children. "The protests will have some effect. It won't be like that of the Israeli lobby, but we must keep it up," he said.

ADC President Abdin Jabara, who was in the occupied territories when the uprising started, is holding briefings for Arab communities throughout the U.S.

The 20,000-member ADC is the only organisation with grassroots power working for Arab-American interests and getting Arab-Americans to work together. "We are consolidating our power, but we need leverage to become a lobby," Abourezk noted. He pointed out that leverage comes from money — presently supplied through membership dues and contributions — and votes for candidates, which ADC is gradually accumulating. "We won't lobby for any Arab state, but we don't want Arab people to be discriminated against in the U.S. or elsewhere," he said. Abourezk said he believes that there has been an endemic level of discrimination against the Arabs since the Crusades. "With the oil embargo in 1973 and the fear of oil power for the Arabs, the American government and Israel made Arabs into scapegoats," he said, adding that the "well-orchestrated anti-Arab

campaign reached its peak in 1980."

It was during that year, Abourezk decided he had had enough; as a result, he founded ADC. "Arabs were the last ethnic group to be defamed without anyone raising an outcry. The discrimination had a political basis, so I used political organisations, which now number 80 chapters throughout the U.S., along with media monitors. We work in the American system, go after congressmen, organise politically and work on projects. For example, we raised \$75,000 for Lebanon when we sponsored Lebanese singer Marcel Khalife's tour of the U.S.," he said.

He added that over the past eight years, dramatic improvements have taken place and although discrimination, defamation and stereotyping still occur it is no longer considered acceptable nor laughable. "It is like what happened to the blacks once they organised; there is still discrimination, but it is not acceptable."

As part of its anti-discrimination activities ADC contacts any information medium which prejudices Arabs. Abourezk said that 95 per cent of the time, those in charge of the medium apologise and say that the discrimination was unintentional. "Only five per cent of the time is the derogatory remark intended."

In addition, ADC works with other minority organisations, including the Rainbow Coalition, headed by Rev. Jackson; Free South Africa; Hispanic, Japanese and Italian groups; and the new Jewish Agenda.

Protesters clash with Israeli troops

(Continued from page 1)

bave no food, no water, no milk," said a Palestinian teacher named Fatma.

"The way we perceive it, the people are not starving, but they are hungry," said UNRWA's acting director in Gaza, Angela Williams.

Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem urged the Israeli government to make an immediate peace offer to the Palestinians and said there could be no local leadership as a substitute to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Labour leader and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday that Israel should take an initiative even as the protests continued. But he ruled out any negotiations with the PLO.

Freij told Israel Television


Saturday night that Israel would have to talk to the PLO.

"The PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and any local leaders will be rejected by the Arab governments, by the Arab people all over the world and they will be considered as collaborators, so the idea of having a local leadership is really not a possibility," he said.

In Abu Dhabi, Salim Zaounoun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), told Reuters that the protests in the occupied territories had two goals:

"Either to force Israel to pull out from our lands or to convince states which are blocking an international peace conference on the Middle East, especially the United States, of the need of holding such a conference."

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 359  Drawing of: Jan. 17, 1988

Winning Tickets	
<p>Holder of ticket No. 68594 Wins JD 25,000</p> <p>Holder of ticket No. 60701 Wins JD 6,000</p> <p>Holder of ticket No. 12811 Wins JD 3,000</p> <p>Holder of ticket No. 50012 Wins JD 2,500</p> <p>Holder of ticket No. 24489 Wins JD 1,500</p> <p>Holder of ticket No. 73687 Wins JD 1,200</p> <p>Holder of ticket No. 03513 Wins JD 1,000</p> <p>Holder of ticket No. 15950 Wins JD 600</p>	<p>Ten consolation prizes totalling JD1,000 each wins JD 100 68595 68504 68694 69594 78594 68593 68584 68494 67594 58594</p> <p>Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60 60702 60711 60801 61701 70701 60700 60791 60601 69701 50701</p> <p>Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30 12812 12821 12911 13811 22811 12810 12801 12711 11811 02811</p> <p>Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 50013 50022 50112 51012 60012 50011 50002 50912 59012 40012</p> <p>Ten consolation prizes totalling JD150 each wins JD 15 24480 24499 24589 25489 34489 24488 24479 24389 23489 14489</p> <p>Ten consolation prizes totalling JD100 each wins JD 10 73688 73697 73787 74687 03687 73686 73677 73587 72687 63687</p> <p>Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 03514 03523 03613 04513 13513 03512 03503 03413 02513 73513</p> <p>Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 15951 15960 15050 16950 25950 15959 15940 15850 14950 05950</p>

Ticket numbers **01818 16835 76661 06666** win JD 200 each

Ticket numbers **51983 24989 21478** win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

5001 5241 9869 6887 4896 Win JD 20 each

1516 1819 9306 1405 2147 Win JD 10 each









150 904 399 132 011 Win JD 5 each

8000 tickets ending with **6** Win JD 2 each.

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

40 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in **897 768 562 818 057** Win JD 10

Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number **358** of Jan. 2, 1988

							
Jaid Al Jaidi Amman — Retired Full first JD 50,000	Basma Irsh Amman — Employee Half second JD 10,000	Muhammad Samir Amman — Student Half second JD 10,000	Abdul Baser Agel Amman — Merchant Half third JD 5,000	Ali Al Said Amman — Employee Half third JD 5,000	Tamara Tharawudin Amman — Student Half fourth JD 2,500	Khalil Al Mazra'ah Jerash — Farmer Half fourth JD 2,500	

Next Drawing takes place on **February 2, 1988**
First eight biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters.

Jordan Times

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Wimps in action

WHAT is one to do with a superpower that insists on acting like — to borrow a term from the current American presidential campaign — a super wimp? In American parlance, wimp refers to a weak, spineless, cowardly and irresolute person, someone who would rather curl up in a corner than stand up for matters of principle, honour or justice. In the recent case of the U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's deportation of four Palestinians to Lebanon, the United States behaved like a super wimp when it abstained. We say this because of the vote itself, but also because of the audacious and absurd explanation which was offered in defence of the American abstention. The U.S. abstained because it did not think that "repeatedly raising the issue in the council assists in the process of restoring calm or in addressing the problems that have contributed to the recent disturbances."

If repetition is so dubious a tactic, one asks the American government, why then does the United States so frequently repeat its demand for more emigration of Soviet Jews, to mention only one example of an official American inclination towards being repetitive that deserves a prize of some sort? Why does the United States keep repeating that the Arabs must recognise Israel's right to exist before peace talks can start? Why does repetition make the heart sing for Americans, but not for Palestinians and other Arabs?

The United States' Wimp Quotient has risen another notch, in our eyes, in a doubly sad incident which the United States should have seized as an opportunity to reaffirm these American qualities which have always been admired around the world — the same qualities, for example, that the United States celebrates this week on Martin Luther King Day. If, as American Ambassador to the U.N. Vernon Walters said after the vote, the United States "deeply regrets" the deportations of Palestinians that took place, then the United States should have voted for the resolution as a matter of principle — because it was the right, and honourable, and just and moral thing to do.

The United States should have voted for the resolution to show Israel and the rest of the world that a superpower can stand up for its moral code and its political ethic. Instead, all we heard was a sorry, childish tale about the inappropriateness of repetition as a diplomatic tactic. The wimps of the world must be celebrating. Those who honour the memory of Martin Luther King must be weeping. What the world needs is more people who live like Martin Luther King, and fewer people who think like Vernon Walters. More men and women of ethics; less wimps.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab consultations continue

THE situation in the Israeli-held Arab territories was discussed at length by King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during the latter's stopover in Aqaba on his way home from a Gulf tour. The King also sent a message on the situation in the occupied lands to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia with whom the King has been maintaining constant touch on the question. The King is thus intent on pursuing his consultations with other Arab leaders with a view to formulating a pan-Arab stand vis-a-vis the on going atrocities being practised by the Israeli authorities on the Arab population. The consultations indicate that there is a clear Arab policy towards re-assuming the initiative in this problem so as to confront and deal with the new Israeli challenge and the fast developing events in our region. The flurry of activity is an indication that the Arabs who achieved agreement and consensus at their summit in Amman last November, are determined to take further constructive steps that would serve the highest national interests. These actions and the consultations are being watched with hope by the Arab masses who support their leaders' contacts and steps for practical action. It should be emphasised that it is up to the Arab leaders now to take the initiative and assume the responsibility towards serious action with which they can deter the aggressors and fulfil the aspirations of their peoples.

Al Dustour: Coordinating peaceful steps

KING Hussein's talks with President Mubarak in Aqaba Sunday came amid crucial circumstances confronting the Arab Nation as a result of the on going Gulf conflict and Israel's escalation of its repressive measures in the occupied Arab territory. The current events in our region call for intensified consultations among Arab leaders and coordination of steps that can lead to a halt of the conflict in the Gulf and an end of Israel's atrocities. Both Egypt and Jordan are deeply concerned over the developments in the two issues and both are keen on rallying Arab ranks to confront the situation in the occupied Arab lands where the Arab masses are pursuing their endeavour for regaining freedom and legitimate rights. The Egyptian president who has just ended a tour of the Gulf has shown that Egypt was deeply concerned on the situation in the Gulf and ready to help its sister Arab states in case of external aggression. His tour was a further step to corroborate the outcome of the Amman Arab summit held in November and his meeting with King Hussein re-emphasises the important role he and King Hussein are playing for ending issues of concern to the Arab countries. Needless to say that the Aqaba meeting was another demonstration of the close ties between Egypt and Jordan and a signal for the enemies of the Arab Nation that solidarity has been achieved among Arabs at all levels.

Sawt Al Shaab: Egypt assumes role

THE talks held in Aqaba Saturday between King Hussein and President Mubarak came amidst serious developments in the Arab region and against a background of stepped up violence in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The meeting was devoted to discussing the situation in the Israeli-held territory where the Arab masses are pursuing a revolt against the Israeli authorities and their repressive measures. The two leaders discussed the situation at the eastern flank of the Arab World where the nation is threatened by the Iranian aggression on Iraqi soil. Despite the elapse of eight years, the Iranian regime insists on pursuing a losing war against Iraq and rejects all peace bids and U.N. Security Council resolutions to bring peace to the Gulf region. Mubarak's talks with the King are of extreme importance as they come at a time when the Arabs are facing serious events, requiring consultations and coordination among Arab countries. We hope that Egypt will shoulder its leading responsibility towards its sister Arab states and help the Arab Nation confront and end all dangers.

Between the trap of marriage and the blessings of divorce

By Waleed Sadi

ELIAS Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, was quoted recently as saying that in the wake of the Palestinian popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel was left with only two options: Either to annex these Arab territories and incorporate their inhabitants or to withdraw from them and set free their people. To drive home his prognosis more vividly, Freij challenged Israel to either "marry" the West Bank and Gaza Strip with their indigenous Palestinian people or to "divorce" them completely. In concluding that there was no longer room for any in-between viable solutions to the Palestinian predicament and Israeli dilemma, Freij was expressing the sentiment of the majority of the Palestinian people still in captivity and a state of limbo. But is this bottom line assessment an act of desperation on the part of the Palestinians or truly a rational diagnosis of the forty odd years stalemate in the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Palestinian case in particular? On closer look this suggested panacea to the Palestinian case is no different from the exhausted Arab proposal to trade peace with Israel for the Arab territories occupied since 1967. Yet Israel has not responded positively and affirmatively to this early Arab sane offer and it looks like it is not going to reply to this trade-off proposal. The reason for Israel's obvious: It, Israel, has concluded a long time ago that it and it alone shall "give" and "take" peace in the Middle East as it continues to have most of

the cards in its hands. At least this is what Israel, leaders and people, think and think with confidence and conceit. Accordingly, Israel holds with contempt all Arab offers to sign peace treaties with it in return for their territories lost in the 1967 war. Deep inside their hearts and minds Israeli leaders ridicule such an extension of Arab olive branches and view them as detached from reality and the dictates of realpolitik.

Accordingly Freij's challenge to Israel will be metted the same treatment as the one accorded to the Arab offer to exchange peace for territory. Israel is no fool and not likely to take the bait of annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip if it implies "marrying" the Palestinian people on them as well. To be sure Israel continues to covet the Arab territories but fears the "offspring" that will be conceived as a result of incorporating the Palestinian people in the Israeli body politic. And any Israeli designs to cause mass expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip will surely be frustrated by their "steadfastness" and their recognition and remembrance of the fatal blunder that their fathers and forefathers had committed in the wars of 1947-48, when they succumbed to Jewish carefully orchestrated terror and intimidation to drive out the majority of the Palestinians from their towns and cities in Palestine. It appears more probable than not

that the Palestinian people under occupation are now more determined than ever to stay put in their country come what may. In a nutshell Israel would continue to shun annexation of Arab territories as long as the people on them cling to their homes, towns and cities. Instead Israel would most likely seek alternate schemes and plans which it thinks will assure them the irreconcilable objectives of having the cake and eating it. Such schemes would envisage de facto annexation on a creeping basis rather than a de jure one and a "common law" marriage with the Palestinian people which would entail having the "sweets" of interrelations without the "legal responsibilities" normally associated with "lawful marriage." Sari Nusseibeh, a Palestinian leader and intellectual in Jerusalem summed up this situation to me not too long ago in this way: "Israel is surely taking us, the Palestinians willy nilly to the bed of some sort of matrimony. The only question left is how and on what basis." The Israeli reply to Freij's challenge would surely provide all parties with the final answer to all their questions and anxieties. But let's not, Arabs, make the fatal mistake of waiting for an Israeli reply to our inquiry. The Arabs have still many cards to play and their situation is not as bankrupt as some would like us to believe. The Arab side is still alive and kicking and it can provide its own answer to its own question.

Strategies of Palestinian resistance

By Chris Mannings and Joost R. Hiltermann

DURING the past months life in the occupied territories has been marked by pitched battles between Palestinian youths throwing stones and Israeli soldiers using live ammunition in a renewed confrontation between the occupier and its subject population. Provocations by Jewish fanatics at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the killing of eight residents of Gaza at the beginning of October led to prolonged clashes throughout the territories. Earlier this year, the killing of a student at Birzeit University and of several children in the Balata refugee camp, as well as a prolonged hunger strike by Palestinian political prisoners, triggered similar clashes.

However these single events which provoked a mass response should not be considered in isolation. They all add up to a pattern of constant pressure felt by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza generally and, most strongly, by the younger generations which have grown up entirely under Israeli rule and have no stake in the status quo. These youths are increasingly eager to seize any opportunity to show that Israel's military occupation is not accepted.

This renewed confrontation has prompted Israelis to acknowledge that the violence within the territories is intrinsic to the structure of the occupation which has been imposed on the Palestinian population. This new realisation is not necessarily communicated to outside opinion. For example, in a speech to the U.N. Security Council following the killing of the two Birzeit students, the Israeli ambassador to the U.N. resorted to Israel's conventional version of events when he asserted that the disturbances that followed the killings were "...part of an attempt by the PLO

to murder prospects for peace by inciting to riot."

This stock Israeli position presented for external consumption on the international stage, which attributes all responsibility for unrest in the territories to "incitement" by the PLO, was hastily revised by Israeli commentators for an internal audience. Israel TV reported, on 14 December 1986, that the head of the civil administration for the West Bank and Gaza, Ephraim Sneh, considered the disturbances in the territories mainly as a spontaneous expression of the frustration of the residents and not as primarily due to PLO agitation.

"... what is fast becoming apparent is that confrontation is increasingly direct but immediate."

Further, the respected Israeli military correspondent for *The Jerusalem Post*, Hersh Goodman, explained, in an article on February 20, 1987, that "whereas in the past unrest was primarily 'imported' for the past few months it has become clear that it is intrinsic. No longer is the Israeli Defence Force pitted in battle in the territories mainly against terrorism, but against indigenous ideologies... that flourish, not die, when countered with force. The enemy has been transformed... to students and school children; the weapons, from bombs and grenades to stones, placards and slogans."

In the aftermath of the invasion of Lebanon and to justify that adventure to the Israeli public, the Israeli government has been forced to claim that it broke the PLO. If that is indeed true, and if the thrust of past Israeli policy has been to blame any unrest in the territories on the PLO, then it

becomes problematic to explain the Palestinian population's continued refusal to acquiesce to occupation. The authorities have therefore been forced to look for another culprit. Hence, the introspective look by some, such as Sneh, at the very nature of the occupation itself.

To residents of the territories who witness the current struggle of the younger generations against the occupation, this recognition amongst Israelis appears belated, if not naive. "They are pondering the situation as if it has only just occurred to them, as if it has not been a constant feature of resistance in the occupied territories," says Haidar Abdul Shafi, the head of the Red Crescent Society in Gaza. "But what is fast becoming apparent is that confrontation is increasingly direct and immediate. It is at root a response to Israeli intransigence."

This new-found Israeli position may be a self-delusion, but it might also be a reaction to new developments that have taken place in terms of political organisation in the occupied territories since the mid-1970s. From that period, Palestinians who were frustrated with what was starting to look like a prolonged military occupation began laying the foundations for a new social infrastructure. To this end they established organisations such as women's committees, voluntary work committees and trade unions, all of which are now beginning to turn into significant vehicles for political change as a result of their broad and potentially powerful political base.

Ramallah lawyer and human rights activists Muna Rishmawi describes the two decades of opposition to the occupation in terms of two general attitudes: "In the early years of occupation

people thought it would not take long, and that direct action was the best course. By the mid-1970s people began to recognise the fact that this was not an occupation which would be over quickly. Hence the growth in the following period of the universities, development associations, trade union activity and so on."

"By the mid-1970s people began to realise the occupation would not be over quickly."

A period of organisation, aimed at drawing in a much larger section of the population, was heralded in. The leadership of this new kind of organisation was young and pragmatic. They had acquired their political education during what was for many of them almost a lifetime under occupation. Hayam, a 24-year-old activist in one of the progressive women's committees in the Gaza Strip, recounts: "We want as many people as possible to enter into the work of the unions and women's committees, not only those who are appointed, or the most capable. There is a role for everyone."

Hayam and activists, like her are convinced that to succeed, the struggle they have embarked upon must be multi-faceted. They regret the over-emphasis on military resistance in the early years of the occupation, while recognising the role it played in forging a national identity and purpose. Confronted with repression and dogged denial of avenues for political expression, they were forced to redefine means of resisting an intransigent occupier. Referring to the new Palestinian response to the Israeli's stubborn refusal to compromise on anything related to the occupation, Haidar Abdul

Shafi commented that "the arena of political activity in coming years will be more and more focused on the claiming of basic human rights."

Today there is significant activity on a popular level around issues of social concern: Education, development, voluntary work and human rights. The need for such activities stems largely from the nature of the occupation, which has suffocated normal life. Such organisations are therefore engaged in a struggle that is both explicitly political, directed against an occupation which denies Palestinians their right to exist as a nation, and social, aimed at the very survival of a society borne down by occupation. The trade union movement is a good example of this. Reviewed in the late 1970s, the movement has grown so large that the military authorities are seriously worried, especially — and most recently — in Gaza. Dr. Abdul Shafi pinpointed the military government's concern by remarking that "the most worrying aspect of the emerging union movement in Gaza for the Israelis is not that it will be a front for political organising on nationalist issues, but that the effect of organised Palestinian labour on the Israeli economy could be immense."

This concern is evidenced by the heavy-handed Israeli treatment of trade unions and their members. It is clear that the authorities appreciate the potential threat posed by this broader based movement, which opposes the occupation on a most basic level. The treatment by the Israelis of a generation of young Palestinians has brought about a merging of the political aspiration for national independence with the day-to-day experience of living in a society oppressed, in all aspects of its existence, for over 20 years.

The new orientation of the younger generation of political activists toward basic issues of human rights, such as the right to education and the right to freedom of association, has in a way caught the Israelis on the wrong foot. To return to Hayam: "People began to realise that they have the right to hold elections, for example. We can exploit the way that Israel has presented itself to the world as a peace-loving, democratic state. When they attempt to close down a nursery or ban union elections, this undermines the image they have tried to create of themselves for the rest of the world."

The trade union movement... has grown so large that the authorities are seriously worried, especially in Gaza.

Despite the optimism displayed by the young emergent leadership, the harsh facts of occupation do not escape Palestinians. Although even the Israeli defence ministry has recently doubted the wisdom of an expanding settlement programme given the economic frailty of many existing settlements, over half the land in the West Bank has been transferred to Israeli hands during the past 20 years. The extent of Israeli control over resources — human, land and water — in the occupied territories has borne out many Palestinians' contention that what is taking place is not just a military occupation but a wholesale colonisation. Yet political activists are clearly prepared for an extended period of struggle, displaying a hitherto unacknowledged need for continuity, while narrowing their focus on achievable goals of a social nature — Middle East International, London.

Spanish-Israeli relations strained on second anniversary of recognition

By Susan Linzee

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Two years after Spain became the last Western European nation to recognise Israel, relations between the two countries are strained, diplomats and news analysts say. Recent Israeli actions against Palestinian demonstrators in occupied territories have added to the difficulties.

In the latest flareup over relations with Israel, six Spanish attorneys and judges visited there in early January and sharply criticised conditions in occupied areas. The Spanish-Israeli Friendship Association struck back with full-page newspaper advertisements criticising the attorneys' remarks and claiming a "mindless anti-Zionism" was emerging in Spain.

Spain's decision to recognise Israel, on Jan. 17, 1986, was largely viewed as necessary for it to enter the European Economic Community. The act was in contrast to Spain's historic closeness to Arab countries.

"We had a lot of expectations, perhaps a little above the normal," Mordechai Amichai, first secretary of the Israeli embassy, said of the establishment of ties. "But when we established relations, the Spanish told us of their position on the Middle East, so nothing is really new."

The government of Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez supports the creation of a Palestinian homeland, and is a strong backer of an international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel has been wary of such a conference.

Trade is a high point in Spanish-Israeli relations. Amichai said, amounting to \$200 million a year. Most of the trade is exports of Spanish cars to Israel, while Israel exports \$20 million in chemicals, phosphates and equipment to Spain.

But Amichai said the Spanish government's last-minute postponement of a scheduled visit to Madrid late last year by Israeli

Trade Minister Ariel Sharon and a group of Israeli businessmen was a "principal negative point" in relations.

Spanish officials, allying to Sharon's role in the Israeli attacks on Palestinian refugee camps outside Beirut in June 1982, claimed his visit was "inopportune."

The Gonzalez government was among the first to criticise Israeli actions against Palestinians when protests broke out last month on the West Bank and in Gaza.

In a Dec. 16 statement, the government deplored the violence, said it "condemns the acts that have led to the high number of deaths and injuries" and reminded Israel of its obligations to the Palestinians under the 1949 Geneva treaty on occupied territories.

In a new year's message to the diplomatic corps widely interpreted in the Spanish press as referring specifically to incidents in Israeli-occupied territories, Spanish King Juan Carlos referred pointedly to the "situation in the Middle East" and called for a "rapid settlement... above all so there is respect for human dignity and the elementary right to life."

The group of liberal attorneys and judges that visited the occupied territories condemned the Israeli occupation. Juan Maria Bandres, a Spanish legislator and the group's unofficial spokesman, said the group had seen "the horror of a military occupation in which everything is permitted" because in the territories "for Palestinian citizens, there are no political or citizens' rights."

In an interview on Spanish state television, Israeli ambassador Shlomo Ben-Ami angrily criticised the motives of the group, which he claimed, had travelled to the occupied territories with "preconceived notions."

Ben-Ami is an Oxford-educated historian specialising in 20th-century Spanish history. The newspaper ad criticising the jurists' group, entitled "the other side of the coin," was prepared by a committee of the

Spanish-Israeli Friendship Association, including the Israeli embassy press attaché, and submitted to the liberal El Pais and the conservative ABC by the Israeli embassy.

It said a "mindless anti-Zionism" appeared to be replacing an earlier "mindless anti-Semitism" in Spain, and concluded that "neither jurists' declarations nor sending young demonstrators into the streets" would advance the well-being of Palestinians.

Commentator Felipe Mellizo, speaking on a popular morning

radio talk show, called the ad "shameful" and said it was time for the Israelis to realise the error of their ways.

Socialist Party official Enrique Mugica Herzog, one of the four vice-presidents of the friendship association, told El Pais it seemed an "anti-Israeli campaign" was underway in Spain.

The establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries took place in a ceremony in the Dutch capital, The Hague, 494 years after Queen Isabella expelled thousands of Spanish Jews from the land they called Sepharad.

ad. It was generally believed at the time that the ceremony was held outside the country because of fear of reprisals from Spain's traditional Arab friends.

On the day relations were established, Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez promised to raise the status of the decade-old Madrid representative office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The foreign ministry says the PLO office now has "a status similar to that of other diplomatic missions" without being an embassy.

Spain's slowness in recognising

Israel was based on several factors, including Gen. Francisco Franco's belief that the country's traditional ties with North African and Arab states would suffer — and on the fact that as its first act as a member of the United Nations, Israel voted against Spanish admission to the international organisation.

Spain's Jewish community, most of which arrived from Morocco when the North African nation gained its independence from France in 1956, numbers about 12,000.

Frustration builds as Palestinians in Egypt watch Gaza uprising

By Dalia Baligh

The Associated Press

RAFAH, Egypt — Since early December, Rafah's Palestinians have watched as Israeli soldiers in Gaza, 40 metres away, use gunfire and tear gas to quell demonstrations.

Some targets of the gas grenades and bullets are relatives and friends.

Rafah's Palestinians talk of hearing wails for help and of seeing people shot at the wire fence marking the no-man's land dividing this border town. They talk of breathing Israeli tear gas borne by the wind into their homes.

And, undaunted by the turmoil they have been watching, Rafah's Palestinians talk of going home, back to Gaza.

"Of course we have to go back to our land," said Riyadh, a school teacher. "Even if Israelis kill us there, we will have died for our land."

Riyadh — like many in Rafah, he wouldn't give his full name — is one of more than 5,000 Palestinians separated from their fellows when Israel returned the Sinai peninsula to Egypt in 1982

under the peace treaty signed three years earlier.

Palestinian Rafah was in Egyptian-administered Gaza, a 25-mile-long strip down Israel's western side, until Israel captured the strip and the Sinai in the 1967 war. The town spread during the next 15 years into Israeli-occupied Sinai.

When Israel withdrew from Sinai and barriers went up on either side of the border, 560 Palestinian families found their homes in Egypt. They settled in Camp Canada, so named because Canadian peace-keepers with a United Nations force once billeted there, waiting to go home.

"In 1982, we were promised that we would be transferred to our land," said Attiya Abdul Aziz Moussaem, Camp Canada's mayor. "We are still asking that this promise be kept."

The uprising in Gaza and the West Bank, which began Dec. 8 and has cost more than 39 Palestinian lives, has made it doubtful that it will be kept soon.

Initially, Rafah's Palestinians were told they would have to wait six months. Lukewarm Egyptian-Israeli relations led to arguments about financial compensation for

the families. The talks are dragging on, leaving the Palestinians in a state of limbo in Egypt's only refugee camp.

Permission to visit families and friends in Rafah, occupied Gaza, is costly and limited. For almost six years, the Palestinians have communicated mainly by shouting through the wire fences.

"Only half of me is here. The other half is with my daughters, who are married and live in Palestinian Rafah," said Fatma, an elderly Palestinian woman who sat in her small Arab-style home with a courtyard and well-built rooms within a fenced-in area.

"We used to keep in touch by exchanging news across the fence," she said. "Now I don't know what we will do."

Although the Camp Canada refugees live in relative comfort, with clean homes, the school and a clinic, they have other problems.

They deny employment outside the Palestinian community, the young find few jobs after graduation from school or university. Scores of youths while away their days aimlessly milling about the camp's dusty streets.

Many refugee families depend solely on food rations from Egyptian and international relief organisations, which don't always arrive on time, every two months.

The camp is filled with tales of split families and their daily struggles.

Nawal, young and pretty, lives with her mother and year-old daughter. Her husband is on the Israeli side, and Nawal sees him only for a month every six months.

"He can't come and live here because he won't find work. I can only get permission to visit him every six months, and that costs 200 pounds (almost \$100), which is very expensive," Nawal said.

Moussaem, the community's mayor, said he was told that Egypt has agreed to the repatriation negotiations to pay \$8,000 to each family to help with construction of a house in Gaza on land provided by the Israelis.

"I met with the governor general of Gaza last week," Moussaem said.

"He said, 'We're ready to take you when the Egyptians pay you the compensation,' but now it's being discussed again between the Egyptians and the Israelis."

Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom of the page.



Iraqis at the Babylon province welcome Arab and friendly poets (file photo)

Marbedians, and other aliens in the land of Mesopotamia

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

CLAD in army uniforms furnished for the occasion by the Iraqi government, visitors of the Marbid Festival of Arts and Culture, labelled as "Marbedians," got their dress rehearsal for their first visit to the war front. Some began day-dreaming about joining the war as fighters. They were taken by buses for a two-hour drive for their first encounter with the "real war."

Jordanians, Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians, Yemenis and other Arabs sang popular patriotic songs, and occasionally, looked out of the windows at gradually increasing signs of war — armoured vehicles, men in uniforms and the artillery observation posts.

The "soldiers of culture" finally arrived at their destination. They rushed out of buses and entered a theatre decorated with welcoming signs specially set for the occasion. Poets emotionally recited their prepared poems and "Marbedians" got more and more excited about their impending participation in the "war of honour."

After reciting their poems, especially written for the occasion, the "soldiers" rushed back to their buses, wondering, fearless but unsure about how the whole thing will eventually turn out.

This time the Marbedians were divided into smaller groups of about 20 each, and were sent to different parts of the war front escorted with an armed soldier and a few army personnel.

Around an hour later, our little bus arrived at an army post hidden behind short sandy hills, where we were welcomed by the commanding officers of the post. Even in that remote refuge on the war front, Arab hospitality did not fail the Marbedians, and with the little cups of Arabic hot coffee and cold refreshments, the barrage of questions started pouring on the Iraqi commanders. The concern was on the situation on the front and the steadfastness of Iraqi defences.

"We are doing well," the commanding officer answered one question. "It is a bloody war, but we are holding fast. Nothing can penetrate our lines now."

According to the commanding officer several elements converged to cause the break of the war. He accused the superpowers of manipulating the countries in the area to serve their interests. "There are strategic, political, cultural and economic reasons for this war," explained the commanding officer.

"Strategic, because throughout the history of this area as we know it, the Middle East has always been divided into two fronts serving the benefits of the two superpowers. One front, serving the United States strategic interests, stretching in the area from the Arabian peninsula, including the Gulf area, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria etc., while the other front which serves the Soviet Union strategic interests includes Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan."

Political reasons fall within the same line of reasoning that serve the interests of the one or the other superpower. Cultural reasons were identified by the commanding officer as an attempt by these superpowers to "bind the emergence of any cultural power that the people of the area may obtain as a continuation of their historical cultural supremacy."

"Trade explains itself," he added. "We are growing largely dependent on the Western world for trade and imports because of the continued unsettled state of affairs in the area." So, he added, "the continuation of this war serves their economic interests because it diverts the Arab countries economies from trade to war. This of course added to the fact that as long as the war

continues the area remains the best market for arms."

Shaking his head, the commanding officer added: "We are like little chess pieces being manipulated by the two big players." With these thoughts brewing in the minds of Marbedians, they were led to a hilly area overlooking the warfront, where one could see the zigzagging borders with Iran. To the dismay of many and to the satisfaction of one who continuously asked "can they see me from here?" there was no exchange of fire and things were calm on this particular front.

After this arresting view of the enemy's borders, the "soldiers" were led into the mini bus again and driven to a military camp for lunch. The Marbedians were met by the commanding officer of the whole region and here began the most moving debate and discussion about Iran's horrible acts committed against Iraqi prisoners of war.

"A number of 138 Iraqis were caught by the Iranians. They were slaughtered like sheep, one after the other with absolutely no mercy or regard to international conventions," said the senior commanding officer. "This is what the Iraqis have learnt to expect from a regime which sends their own children into mine

fields to clear the way for an armoured attack."

"These people could not possibly be related to Islam or its teachings. Even the method they use in killing the prisoners are very similar to how Zarathustrians (Majous) used to kill sheep when sacrificing them to their gods," he said.

Marbedians used the occasion to relate to the Iraqi military officials their support for the Iraqi people and their misgivings about the war and the scope of its impact on the citizens of Iraq.

A lavish lunch followed this heart to heart conversation and the Marbedians ended their day on the war front and headed back to Baghdad.

A trip which started with patriotic songs and dreams of entering the Iraqi army, ended with a dead-quiet ride back to Baghdad. Each of the Marbedians was reviewing in his or her mind the extent of the Iranian regime's lack of regard to human life.

The irony of the whole war is that it does not serve the interests of either the peoples of Iran or Iraq. The cost for the two countries, both human and material, is astronomical. And the war's effect on people's lives and their well-being will probably last much longer than the war itself.

of parliament as it does to serving in Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government or the U.S. Congress.

"It would be very difficult to justify a special case for the British in the eyes of the rest of the church," said Monsignor George Leonard, spokesman for Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the 4 million Catholics in England and Wales.

"We might say, 'for heaven's sake, this is different; it's the mother of parliaments.' But that wouldn't cut much ice in Spain, or northern Italy or Nicaragua," he told the Associated Press.

Leonard added, however: "The concern in Britain is a marvellous tribute to the new atmosphere of ecumenical friendship."

It is 433 years since Cardinal John Fisher was beheaded for remaining loyal to Rome after Henry VIII created the Church of England with himself at its head.

Pope Pius XI canonised Fisher in 1935.

Queen Elizabeth II retains the role of temporal head of the Church of England, which the off-married Henry assumed when he broke with Rome in 1534 after being refused a divorce from Catherine of Aragon.

Modern monarchs are the formal bestowers of life peerages but the prime minister does the choosing.

No one is saying whether Hume has refused a royal summons to the Lords, although Catholic sources say the cardinal personally would consider a peerage inappropriate.

Young Egyptians work to turn the desert green

By Ahmed Shawki
Reporter

NUBARIA, Egypt — Young men and women squeezed out of Cairo, Egypt's crowded and noisy capital, are trying to make the desert bloom and grow food for the country's booming population.

In the midst of the desiccated landscape of the western desert, 30-year-old Abdul Hamid Hassan is one of 230 university graduates trying to sow a better future for himself and his country.

"Tomorrow we will turn this den into a fashionable villa," he said, pointing to his two-room, cement house with no running water.

His wife, Abeer, nodded agreement. "I have always wanted to live far from the noisy cities," she said.

Their optimism was shared by other young couples. The government has granted each of them four hectares (10 acres) of reclaimed land in the heart of the desert about 250 kilometres west of Cairo.

Leaving family and friends, as well as an acute housing and job shortage in Cairo, they volunteered to live in the middle of nowhere.

The government provides a house, agricultural equipment, seeds, water, electricity, food and a monthly salary of 50 Egyptian pounds (\$22) as part of drive to encourage cultivation of the desert.

Abeer said she had no second thoughts about making the move and was not bothered by the lack of a proper bathroom or kitchen.

"I think this is the challenge... If we live an easy life, we will not have the motivation to work hard," she said.

Egypt's 52 million people have long lived along the banks of the river Nile in a country where only four per cent of the land is cultivated and more than half the food is imported.

In view of Egypt's rapidly increasing population — a million new people every eight months — President Hosni Mubarak has called upon young people to leave the banks of the Nile, invade the desert and turn it green.

"He who does not produce his own food cannot be free," is the slogan used by Mubarak, who ordered that at least 60,700 hectares (150,000 acres) of desert must be reclaimed every year.

The government approved an ambitious five-year plan starting in 1987 to reclaim 303,500 hectares (750,000 acres) of desert at a total cost of 941 million Egyptian pounds (\$428 million).

Salah Muawad, chairman of the Agricultural Development Organisation, said about 40,470 hectares (100,000 acres) of land had been reclaimed and distributed over the past 11 months.

It had gone to university graduates, poor farmers and some Arab investors.

A further 30,350 hectares (75,000 acres) in the western desert and on the Mediterranean coast would be distributed by the end of April.

Muawad said Arab investors paid cash for their plots. But graduates and poor farmers paid for the land over 30 years at an interest rate of three per cent.

after a grace period of three years.

Officials said drip or spray irrigation was used at desert projects to save water and protect Egypt from the effects of low flood cycles which have caused droughts in East African countries over the past several years.

"We have no irrigation problems here, thanks to the new technology," said 28-year-old Hassan Sadeek, a graduate who has been farming at Nubaria for nine months.

He pointed proudly to small bushes of beans covering his 10 acres and said he expected a good harvest in a few weeks.

"I left a good-paying job in Cairo to come here... Believe me, nothing is better than producing your own food," he said.

Pakistani companies draw funds and official wrath

By Ibrahim Khan
Reporter

KARACHI — Pakistan's small investors can either put their money in the banks — annual return 12 to 16 per cent — or they can opt for illicit private investment companies paying anywhere from 50 to 150 per cent.

Not surprisingly, the banks are losing out. They are in theory not allowed to charge interest at all as it is banned under Islamic banking rules.

And, although they have devised ways of paying investors a return, such as profit-and-loss share accounts, the rewards from the private players are so much higher that people are flocking to them.

They are convenient, profitable and totally illegal, operating under the nose of the state (central) bank with no books, no taxes and no government control. Bankers estimate several hundred companies regularly pay out interest at clients' doors. The more brazen even advertise in the press.

The banks, state-owned since 1973, are up in arms about it. On January 7 the head of the Karachi stock exchange called for government action.

Two days later Finance Minister Yasin Khan Wattoo said the state bank and corporate law authority were taking steps to put a stop to the practice. He promised "severe" measures but gave no details.

Jahan Ara, 38, a housewife with five children at school, invested 20,000 rupees (\$1,140) to boost the income from her textile-work-

er husband's 1,850-rupee (\$105) monthly pay. She says her investment yields seven per cent a month.

"A man delivers a small, white envelope containing 1,400 rupees (\$80) at my doorstep in the second week of every month, without needing any signature," she says. "I use 1,000 rupees (\$57) a month to repay a loan and spend the rest."

Thousands of other people in Karachi have pulled nest-eggs out from under the mattress, tempted by the interest rates. Others have

encashed stocks, sold property and withdrawn their savings from bank accounts, say stock and estate brokers.

"We get up to 10 per cent profit every month on our investments and pay back up to seven per cent," says investment company owner Abdul Razzaq. "We still make a profit."

Most of the funds are invested in Karachi's flourishing real-estate and construction business, where annual returns rise as high as 100 per cent.

Despite a creaking infrastruc-

ture and occasional ethnic riots, the port city of over seven million is something of a boom town. It has close links with the Gulf and attracts up to 250,000 migrants, mainly from inside Pakistan, each year.

Some of the money is lent at high rates to industrialists and importers unable to obtain capital from the government's banks because of tight credit policies.

Stock and estate dealers say some cash undoubtedly ends up in illegal businesses but little goes into Karachi's flourishing drugs

trade.

Bankers say the thriving illicit business is hampering government efforts to raise Pakistan's chronically low investment level, seen by both economists and the state bank as a major obstacle to national economic development.

"It has definitely drained out money from savings accounts," said a branch manager of one of the five nationalised banks.

"Most of the small depositors have withdrawn money" another said.

'Americans are reluctant internationalists'

By Tony Barber
Reporter

WASHINGTON — Americans are reluctant internationalists, emotionally drawn to isolationism but sensing that the United States must play an active world role, concluded a survey released last week.

Many U.S. citizens feel that stubborn enemies and passive allies abroad are sapping American strength, but they recognise the post-1945 era of U.S. supremacy in the world is certain to end one day, the survey says.

The study, by the independent Roosevelt Centre for American Policy Studies, says most Americans support existing U.S. alliances but are suspicious of military involvement in areas such as the Middle East or the developing world.

In a piece of news that would cheer Soviet leader Mikhail Gor-

bachev, it says most people think Moscow is just as keen as Washington to avoid nuclear war. Instead, people worry that new countries will acquire nuclear weapons and spark a war.

Christopher Makins, a Roosevelt Centre director who helped prepare the survey, said it revealed that Americans have strong views on foreign affairs even though they freely admit their knowledge of specific subjects is not all it could be.

He rejected as too sweeping a view often heard abroad and among some U.S. intellectuals that Americans know much less than foreigners about world affairs.

"In Western Europe, you would not find a greater degree of involvement and knowledge of international problems," he told Reuters. "The U.S. is such a large and, in a sense, remote country that naturally you find

different concerns."

The report was based on group discussions — a survey technique widely used in the United States — between 110 people representing a range of ages, incomes and educational backgrounds. All had voted in elections in 1984 or 1986.

The discussions were held between last June and September in seven cities — Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Birmingham, Alabama, and Nashville, New Hampshire.

Makins said the survey confirmed conclusions reached in public opinion polls — for example, that a majority of people would oppose sending U.S. troops into a war in Central America.

It also suggested many Americans are anxious about the U.S. position in the world. In a discussion group in Chicago, seven people out of 10 supported the idea that "a significant portion of the

world hates the United States."

One Chicago woman, recalling the U.S. air attack on Libya in April 1986, was quoted as saying: "When we flew over Libya, bombed Libya last year, I practically jumped up and down. I was so happy that for once we retaliated against somebody that has been treating us like dirt."

Makins said candidates in November's presidential election would do well to study the survey's suggestion that Americans want a leader who does not overwhelm them with the minutiae of foreign affairs but has a broad, easily understood message.

"I am struck by how much the intra-party debates in both parties have focused on specific issues," he said. "Part of the electorate's mind is looking for proof of competence on specific issues but overall they want something more general."

Britain's House of Lords now has a rabbi, but still no Catholic prelate

By Maureen Johnson
The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's chief rabbi is joining 26 Anglican bishops in the House of Lords, but there still are no Catholic prelates in the august body four centuries after Henry VIII broke with the church of Rome.

Anglicans express no objection, but Roman Catholic leaders say they aren't interested — not because bitterness remains after 400 years, but because Pope John Paul II disapproves of priests becoming politicians.

They say that will keep Catholic clergy out of the House of Lords, despite renewed calls for a Jewish cardinal after chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits was ennobled in the new year's honours list.

John Paul's stricture apparently applies just as much to joining Britain's unelected and comparatively powerless upper chamber

of parliament as it does to serving in Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government or the U.S. Congress.

"It would be very difficult to justify a special case for the British in the eyes of the rest of the church," said Monsignor George Leonard, spokesman for Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the 4 million Catholics in England and Wales.

"We might say, 'for heaven's sake, this is different; it's the mother of parliaments.' But that wouldn't cut much ice in Spain, or northern Italy or Nicaragua," he told the Associated Press.

Leonard added, however: "The concern in Britain is a marvellous tribute to the new atmosphere of ecumenical friendship."

It is 433 years since Cardinal John Fisher was beheaded for remaining loyal to Rome after Henry VIII created the Church of England with himself at its head.

Pope Pius XI canonised Fisher in 1935.

Queen Elizabeth II retains the role of temporal head of the Church of England, which the off-married Henry assumed when he broke with Rome in 1534 after being refused a divorce from Catherine of Aragon.

Modern monarchs are the formal bestowers of life peerages but the prime minister does the choosing.

No one is saying whether Hume has refused a royal summons to the Lords, although Catholic sources say the cardinal personally would consider a peerage inappropriate.

Asked whether a peerage is proper for any ordained minister in modern Britain, legal adviser Brian Hanson of the Anglican Church said:

"We think so. They see their role as monitoring legislation to make sure the Christian conscience is not forgotten in what is still

reckoned to be a Christian country."

The presence in the Lords of the 26 senior Anglican bishops, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury and York, dates to the medieval royal habit of summoning the aristocracy and clerics for advice. Thus was parliament born, and the Anglican bishops still are called the lords spiritual.

Others in the 1,100-member chamber, known as the Lords Temporal, are hereditary nobles and about 400 appointed life peers. Most of the life peers are politicians, but they include two non-Anglican ordained ministers apart from the new lord Jakobovits.

Lord Soper, a distinguished preacher, pacifist, socialist and onetime president of the British Methodist Conference, was given a peerage in 1965. Lord MacLeod of Fuinar, a Presbyterian now 92 years old, is former moderator, or head, of the Church of Scot-

land.

Only a few hundred peers, usually with one or two bishops among them, attend sessions of the House of Lords. Their powers are restricted to delaying for up to six months legislation passed by the elected House of Commons.

Soper, 84, said: "There is clearly something radically wrong with the fact that the only religious leaders automatically there are from the Church of England. But what to do about it is a more acute question because of the position of the Roman Catholics."

Catholics make up 10 per cent of Britain's population, compared with 60 per cent who are Anglicans, at least nominally. Since 1534, only one ordained Catholic has been a member of the Lords: The ninth Baron Vaux of Harrowden, who became a Benedictine monk. Leonard recalled that the Baron, who died in

1977, attended just once, to take part in a debate on youth clubs.

Among the Temporal Lords are 81 Catholics, chief among them the Duke of Norfolk. He is the church's leading layman in Britain and his title dates to the 15th century.

"We're a hard, strong minority and we ought to be represented," said the duke, who renewed calls for a Catholic priest-peer after a

peerage was given Jakobovits. Catholic church sources, however, pointed to what one called "the general tightening up by the pope."

This has included directing an American Jesuit, the Rev. Robert Drinan, to quit the U.S. Congress in 1980. Four priests who ignored papal orders to resign from the Nicaraguan government.

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Olympic deadline ends with four countries still undecided

Seoul to host record 161 states with Syria's entry

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — A record 161 countries met Sunday's deadline for giving official notice they will participate in the Summer Olympics, an International Olympic Committee (IOC) spokeswoman said.

Syria Sunday became the final country to accept the IOC invitations to participate in the Seoul Games, which begin Sept. 17. The actual deadline was 2300 GMT Sunday, but no other countries were expected to give an official reply before then.

"There will be no further communications officially from the IOC today. The final situation will be given by President Juan Antonio Samaranch at his press conference Monday" in Lausanne, said IOC spokeswoman Michelle Verrier.

The previous record attendance was 140 countries at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

The Seoul Games will be the first Summer Olympics in 12 years to pit Soviet and U.S. athletes against each other, following a Soviet-led boycott of the Los Angeles Games and a similar U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games.

But they have still been marred

by politics. Seoul's chief ideological foe, North Korea, has pushed to be allowed to co-host the games and recently said it would boycott the Olympics unless its demands were met.

Verrier said the IOC has not received any official notice from either North Korea or Cuba, both of which have threatened to boycott the Seoul Games.

North Korea issued a statement last week saying it would not participate unless it was named co-host and would continue to seek agreement with the IOC on that issue. Negotiations have been deadlocked since 1985.

Last June, in what he called his final offer, Samaranch proposed that North Korea could stage the archery, table tennis, women's volleyball, men's 100-kilometre road cycling race and some soccer preliminaries in its capital, Pyongyang.

South Korea accepted the proposal, but North Korea de-

manded more sports and the right to co-host the games.

The IOC and South Korea have said they want North Korea to participate in the Olympics and that Pyongyang may apply to take part even after the deadline passes. Ms. Verrier declined to comment on whether that was still the case.

She also declined comment when asked about Cuba. The Cuban news agency Prensa Latina reported Friday that Cuba would not participate in the Seoul Olympics unless North Korea was a co-host and there was a guarantee of no violence.

The agency said President Fidel Castro had sent a letter to Samaranch on the subject. Ms. Verrier said Sunday that the IOC had not received anything official from Cuba.

Cuba is a close ally of North Korea, but also of the Soviet Union, which will send a team to the Summer Games.

Aside from Cuba and North Korea, four other countries have not given an official response to the IOC — Nicaragua, the Seychelles, Albania and Ethiopia.

Bicyclist preparing for ultraweight flight

LEXINGTON, Kentucky (AP) — Bicyclist Greg Zack doesn't mind speeding six hours a day on the road or getting up before dawn to practise pedaling an ultralight plane.

He is preparing for a 119-km trip on a pedal-powered airplane off the coast of Greece, from the Island of Crete to the Island of Santorini. And that, he thinks, is romantic.

"I'm doing this more for the challenge and the opportunity to work with a great team," Zack said last week. "It's the adventure."

The 26-year-old bicyclist had never flown an ultralight plane before he began training for the mission this fall.

"You're 6 metre off the ground, and nothing's holding you up," he said. "It's strange to see your legs going and realise that's what's holding you up. It flies so slowly. It feels like it's floating in every direction at once."

Zack is one of five cyclists who, along with technical crews, have been training in California's Mojave Desert. If successful, the flight will measure three times longer than the record set by the ultralight plane Gossamer Albatross when it crossed the English Channel in 1979.

The group plans to leave for Greece on Feb. 24 and hopes to make the flight between March 14 and April 12.

With good weather conditions, the pilot will have to pedal non-stop for an estimated 4½ hours to six hours. The five cyclists will be on a training rotation, waiting for favourable weather, so the decision about who gets to fly the plane will fall to chance.



THE WHEEL ROLLS ON: (Above) the Range Rover number 211 of Smith (Belgium). (Below) wreckage of the DAF truck which crashed during the rally killing its co-driver (Sygma photo)



Fuel prices threaten rally

TIMBUKTU, Mali (R) — Expensive, watered-down fuel almost put Frenchman Patrick Tambay out of the Paris-Dakar Rally Saturday and sparked a strong reaction from drivers nearing the end of the 22-day race, still led by Finn Ari Vatanen.

Drivers threatened to boycott the event when traders offered fuel — transported 700 kms especially for the race — at \$4 a gallon. It was eventually sold 25 per cent cheaper.

But fuel Tambay bought at Lemjebir, Mali, the previous day was found to have water in it, forcing him to drain off one of his three tanks.

His Range Rover splintered to

a halt on the finish line at Timbuktu in fourth place, lifting the Frenchman to fourth from sixth overall in the rally.

It was a hat-trick for the Peugeot in the fastest stage of this year's edition of the rally, with Peugeot estimating they touched 200 kph on the sun-baked desert.

Henri Pescarolo of France won the 630-km stage, followed by Finn Juha Kankkunen in second place and Vatanen in third.

In spite of yet another puncture, Vatanen still leads the rally from Kankkunen with Japanese Ken Shinozuka, who was sixth from Lemjebir to Timbuktu, in third overall.

Precedents could be shattered NFL Super Bowl

WASHINGTON (AP) — The final four regular season games to finish 8-7 and qualified for the playoffs only when St. Louis lost to Dallas on the final Sunday.

Since then, they've gone on the road to easily beat the teams with the league's best records, 12-3 New Orleans, 44-10, and the 13-2 49ers, 36-24.

"Everyone wrote us off," says Minnesota quarterback Wade Wilson, who has thrown 318 passes in regular season and playoffs this season, nearly as many as the 436 he threw in his first six NFL seasons.

"So we went to New Orleans and played loose and free and it happened in San Francisco, too. A whole lot of intangibles have come together at the right time."

But is Minnesota really a surprise? A team that was 3-13 under Les Steckel just three years ago, the Vikings were 7-9 and the next year and 9-7 last season, drafting wisely and adding three pro Bowl players cut loose by the demise of the United States Football League (USFL) — defensive tackle Keith Millard, offensive tackle Gary Zimmerman and wide receiver Anthony Carter.

They were also aided by the emergence of Chris Doleman, who had 11 sacks and forced seven fumbles after being switched to defensive end from Linebacker, where he was a hustler in his first two seasons after being a first-round draft choice in 1985.

Moreover, the "real" Vikings are 10-4, half-a-game better than

the "real" Redskins, who are 9-4 in non-strike games after winning the NFC East title with an 11-4 record then beating the Bears 21-17 last Sunday. The difference was in the replacement teams that played three games during the 24-day strike — the Redskins went 3-0 and the Vikings 0-3.

"I think we match up very evenly," says Redskins quarterback Doug Williams.

Williams, another player resurrected from the USFL, is another sidelight to the game, particularly in a season in which the absence of blacks in sports executive positions — and at quarterback in the NFL — have been highlighted.

If the Redskins win, Williams could be the first black quarterback to start in a Super Bowl, a distinction he debunks by saying: "I'm just trying to get to the Super Bowl as a player, black, white, green or yellow."

(AFC) play at mile high stadium for the right to journey to San Diego and play in the National Football League (NFL) title game. Last season, they met in Cleveland.

"This is what a championship game should be," Broncos coach Dan Reeves said. "Two very good teams who were the best in the conference last year and this year."

Marty Schottenheimer, Reeves' counterpart with the Browns, cannot argue about the merits of the teams — Denver has the AFC's top offence and Cleveland the No. 1 defence. His main concern is reversing last year's 23-20 overtime defeat.

The AFC west champions have lost only one non-strike game in Denver in two seasons. Rarely do visitors keep matters close.

"I'd rather be playing here than in Cleveland," said John Elway, Denver's star quarterback who may have cemented his place of honour among the game's great leaders when he drove the Broncos 98 yards (89 metres) in the final moments to tie the Browns last year. Rich Karlis' field goal won it in overtime.

Cleveland's defence is led by pro Bowl cornerbacks Hamford Dixon and Frank Minnifield and an active group of linebackers. The Browns are relatively healthy and didn't miss nose tackle Bob Golie, out with a broken arm, in last week's victory over Indianapolis. Dave Puzosoli, his replacement, made eight tackles and

SPORTS IN BRIEF

20th century lady Godiva rides in U.S.

DENVER (AP) — Some football fans' enthusiasm knows no bounds, as shown by the antics in the stands during some televised games, and one fan's deep desire for free tickets led her to emulate the legendary Lady Godiva. Linda Kirchner found herself smiling and naked except for blue body paint while she rode a chestnut horse down Denver's 16th street mall in exchange for two tickets for Sunday's National Football League (NFL) playoff game between the Denver Broncos and Cleveland Browns. She clutched them to her bare bosom. "I've never done anything like this," she said after Friday's ride before about 75 spectators. "But life begins at 30, and I turn 30 next week, so here I am." The self-described yacht broker was the highlight of Broncos-inspired silliness at the downtown mall, where Denver radio station KOAO-FM gave away 22 tickets to the game. The 11 winners just had to show they were among the metro area's more manic Broncos-maniacs. Ms. Kirchner said she had gone to the mall intending to show off no more than her bikini-clad figure. "But I thought, 'if the crowd wants more', they'll get more," she said. The mall is not enclosed, but Ms. Kirchner had the benefit of mild weather with a temperature of 10 C.

'The Greek' fired for remarks on blacks

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. sports commentator Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder was fired by the broadcasting network CBS on Saturday, one day after making controversial remarks about blacks. A statement by the network said "CBS sports today ended its relationship with Jimmy 'The Greek' Snyder." The action follows remarks by Snyder Friday in Washington to a local broadcaster, which have been widely reported. "Snyder, who had been with CBS 12 years, said among other things that blacks had been bred to produce bigger and better offspring in times of slavery. He also said if blacks become coaches there will be nothing left for whites. After his comments stirred an uproar, Snyder apologized for his remarks. The CBS statement also said: "In no way do these comments reflect the views of CBS sports. Mr. Snyder had been a member of the CBS sports team since 1976 and has made important contributions to its success."

Real Madrid beats Sociedad

MADRID (R) — An inspired goal by Emilio Butragueno gave defending champions Real Madrid a 1-0 home win over Real Sociedad and a five-point lead in the Spanish Soccer League Saturday night. The second-half goal by Butragueno, back after a two-week absence through injury, lit up a miserable, rain-swept evening which saw most players reduced to a lumbering pace as the pitch became steadily waterlogged. But one goal was enough for Real Madrid to extend their First Division lead after faltering last weekend when they drew 1-1 away to Real Murcia. Michel Gonzalez created the winner when he lobbed the ball to Spanish World Cup striker Butragueno, who attempted to return the pass before striking home a left-foot shot off a post.

Lendl powers way into open quarterfinals

MELBOURNE (R) — World number one Ivan Lendl thundered into the quarterfinals of the Australian Open on Sunday, routing Wally Masur with a blistering display of steamhammer tennis.

Lendl beat Masur 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 and now meets unseeded Todd Witsken, the last American left in the men's competition, who ousted Dutchman Menno Oosting 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

Another Dutchman, Michiel Schapers, had better luck, finding number five seed Yannick Noah

on an off-day in the gusty winds on court one.

Schapers, who last hogged the headlines with a 1985 victory over Boris Becker here, won 2-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6.

However, it was business as usual in the women's competition with Americans Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, who suffered shock first set losses during the third round, both winning with ease. Masur, after sharing centre stage with Lendl, joined the chorus line of those tipping the Czechoslovak for the men's

title.

"He hit the ball awfully hard out there. I think he's consistently the hardest hitter in the game as he hits it hard and heavy off both wings," said the Australian number 16 seed.

"It's just impossible to beat him, it's just very difficult, especially on this surface," Masur added.

Lendl, who has set his sights on winning the Grand Slam this year, was in trouble only once in the match when Masur broke back to 4-4 in the first set.

PSV drops 1st point of season in league restart

AMSTERDAM (R) — A second half equaliser by Twente's Piet Euser forced leaders PSV Eindhoven to drop their first point of the season as the Dutch Soccer league got back into action after a four-week winter break at the weekend.

The 26-year-old striker scored in the 71st minute as Twente matched a 2-2 draw in Eindhoven to put the first blot on PSV's copybook after a record-breaking run of 17 wins in succession.

Diminutive Belgian international Erik Gerets put PSV ahead in the 24th minute. But midfielder Roo Willems grabbed one

back for Twente ten minutes later before Dutch international Gerald Vanenburg gave the home side a 2-1 lead at halftime.

PSV are still seven points clear at the top and their record of 70 goals in 18 matches without defeat still make impressive reading for the seven other teams in the quarter-finals of the European Cup.

Second-placed Ajax, without a manager after the departure of Johan Cruyff two weeks ago, bounced back from their midweek defeat by Porto in the supercup final with a 3-0 away victory over struggling Roda.

In-form Dutch international striker John Bosman scored a first half goal before winger John Van't Schip and Jan Wouters sealed the win after the break to pose Roda more problems in the lower half of the table.

Feyenoord kept third spot after a 1-1 draw at Pec Zwolle. Ven Der Waart put the home side ahead ten minutes into the second half before Mario been replied a minute later to secure a point.

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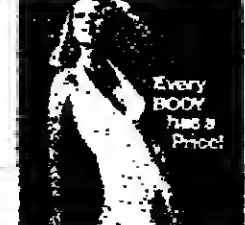
Performances 3:30, 6:10, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

OPERA

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THE SPECIALIST



Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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BEVERLY HILLS COP II

Performances 3:30, 6:10, 8:30, 10:30

Customs director rules out cut in Jordan's duty rates to offset high foreign exchange

AMMAN (J.T.) — Collections of customs duties by Jordanian authorities during the past year registered JD 9 million more than those of the previous year, according to Customs Department Director Adel Qudah.

He said that the increase can be attributed to the fact that some commodities and imports like cars were charged according to foreign exchange rates against the Jordanian currency.

The imposition of customs duties on goods imported for government departments and the introduction of improved systems for collecting customs duties on imported goods also contributed to the rise in the volume of collected duties in 1987, Qudah noted.

He said that the increase came despite the fact that Jordan's imports last year did not exceed those of 1986.

Calculation of customs duties, Qudah said, is carried out in accordance with a central bank currency circular issued by-monthly and applied to all commodities imported from abroad.

Jordanian auditors elect chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — Wafiq Al Sha'er has been elected president of the Jordanian Certified Auditors Association (JCAA) after winning 81 votes out of a total of 177 at a JCAA election held at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

A close competitor was Ibrahim Aqel who received 80 votes while nine votes went to Issa Rida.

Saudi Arabia plans to build factory to produce titanium dioxide

RIYADH (OPECNA) — The Saudi Arabian ministry of industry and electricity is planning to build a titanium dioxide factory at the industrial city of Yanbu at a cost of \$128 million with an annual production capacity of 45,000 tons.

According to Mahmood Jalal, president of the Saudi Arabian National Industries Company, the Saudi Fund for Development



Adel Qudah

So far, Qudah added, the government has not considered any amendment to reduce the existing customs duty rates to compensate traders for higher foreign exchange and to provide protection to local industries which enjoy low tariffs.

Qudah also disclosed that the local authorities have recently seized contraband goods from the local markets and referred three merchants dealing with such goods to the legal authorities.

JCAA board members who won in the same election, held for the first time in Jordan, are the following: Tawfiq Ayyoub, Mahmoud Hassan, Majid Mohammad Khalifa, Rafiq Dweik, Mazen Dajani, Adnan Khleif, Yasser Mahafza and Samir Hourani.

The national industry company would hold 24 per cent of the shares, would provide a loan of \$64.60 million to finance almost 50 per cent of the project.

The official noted that the approval of the Saudi commerce ministry was being sought to set up a closed joint-share company with an initial capital of \$32 million.

The national industry company would hold 24 per cent of the shares.

NEWS IN BRIEF

World tourism earns \$150 billion in 1987

MADRID (R) — Some 355 million tourists travelled abroad in 1987, earning the world's holiday industry \$150 billion, the World Tourism Organisation has reported. The number of tourists rose from 341 million, while earnings were up from \$129 billion, the Madrid-based organisation said. European countries remained the top holiday destinations in 1987 — taking 66 per cent of the world's tourist trade with 234.5 million arrivals. The region earned \$90 billion from tourism. The second most popular region was North, Central and South America, with 66 million arrivals. The Far East and Pacific saw the biggest increase in tourist arrivals, visited by 34 million people compared with 29 million the previous year.

Natural gas reserves go up in Oman

MUSCAT (OPECNA) — Oman's natural gas reserves increased by three trillion to 9.60 trillion cubic feet this month, according to sources at the ministry of petroleum and minerals. Quoted by the Arabic daily "Oman," the sources said that this year three gas prospecting programmes would be launched in the sultanate at a cost of \$6.30 million. In 1987, Oman's natural gas consumption totalled 50 billion cubic feet with demands averaging 150 million and 400 million cubic feet a day in summer and winter respectively. Following the launching of a special exploration programme in 1984, Oman's natural gas reserves stood at 7.60 trillion cubic feet, increasing to 7.70 trillion cubic feet in 1985 and 8.10 trillion cubic feet in 1986.

Austria imports more oil products

VIENNA (OPECNA) — During January-November 1987, Austria imported 26.2 per cent more oil products but 29 per cent less crude oil, compared to the same period last year, according to a report by the Central Statistical Authority. OPEC oil accounts for the bulk of Austrian energy requirements. Its share in the first three quarters of the year was 67 per cent. The report said import of solid fuels declined by 11.4 per cent over the same period, while that of natural gas, mostly from the Soviet Union, increased by 4.7 per cent. Austria's trade with the 13 OPEC countries represented only 2.2 per cent of its imports and 2.9 per cent of its exports. Austrian imports of commodities and services from OPEC countries dropped by 5.2 per cent to \$677 million, compared with the same period a year earlier, while Austrian exports to the group reached \$759 million, a decline of 27.7 per cent, leaving a balance of more than \$62 million in favour of Austria. Third World countries increased their purchases from Austria by 14.2 per cent and OPEC countries by 20.8 per cent.

N. Yemen expects \$750m income from oil

DOHA (OPECNA) — Officials in North Yemen estimate annual oil export revenues to average between \$700 to \$800 million at the current volume of 200,000 barrels per day and a price of \$18 a barrel. An article published in a local magazine said the officials put the country's proven reserves between 500 and 700 million barrels. About 50 foreign oil companies are reported to be interested in purchasing North Yemeni oil on a quarterly basis. Yemeni oil is being pumped through a 420-kilometre pipeline from the governorate of Ma'arib to the Red Sea.

11 countries to get special Dutch aid

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands has decided to grant a total of 205 million guilders (\$103 million) in special import aid to 11 countries, a spokesman for the Dutch development ministry has said. The aid is aimed at giving foreign currency to countries that have made efforts to restructure their economies according to International Monetary Fund guidelines, but still suffer from a serious current accounts deficit, the spokesman said. Egypt, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Bolivia and Jamaica are each to receive grants of 10 to 30 million guilders (\$5 to \$20 million) under the programme, spokesman Frans Naef said. All but four countries — Egypt, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, and Jamaica — have received similar grants in the past, he added. The Netherlands each year budgets about five billion guilders (\$2.7 billion), equal to 1.5 per cent of its net national income, for development aid.

BADEA extends \$8.2m loan to Uganda

KAMPALA (AP) — The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) is giving Uganda an \$8.2 million loan to help rebuild dilapidated rural roads, Radio Uganda has reported. The state-owned radio said the 12-year loan, with a five-year grace period, will go toward a \$55 million project to rehabilitate roads over the next four years. Japan, West Germany and the United Nations Development Programme also have promised to help in the project. Uganda's 27,000 kilometres of roads are potholed because previous governments did not repair them.

Kremlin reemphasises food priority

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin number two Yegor Ligachev has said the Soviet Union must make an important step this year towards solving its food supply problem because it is crucial to the country's overall reform programme, Pravda said Sunday.

Ligachev, the chief Soviet ideologist, was speaking Saturday at a Communist Party Central Committee meeting on agriculture and spring planting, the party newspaper said.

"This year we have to make an important new step on the way to solving the food problem," Ligachev was quoted as saying.

"As you know, the party is paying attention to this problem, and its solution will determine in many respects the depth and effectiveness of changes taking place in the country," he noted.

Ligachev said it was important to do everything possible to help farm workers prepare for spring planting. "Only in this way can we count on strengthening our food basis," he said.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has made ridding the country of chronic food shortages a priority aim of his reform drive. He promised in a speech earlier this month to open every door to farmers who use his reforms to improve Soviet agriculture.

Saturday's Central Committee meeting was attended by heads of ministries concerned with agricultural equipment and supplies as well as Y. Sizenko, first deputy chairman of Gosagroprom, the super-ministry for agricultural affairs, Pravda said.

The newspaper indicated some ministries were already behind in their preparations for spring planting. Some had been slow to supply state and collective farms with tractors, ploughs, spare parts, chemicals and fertiliser, it

said. Gorbachev has sought to boost farm production by offering incentives to farmers to grow more on their private plots.

The Kremlin has also called for better use of modern technology, the development of ecological protection programmes and improved food storage and processing.

Government forms new foreign trade ministry

In another development, TASS said that the government has consolidated two foreign trade agencies and placed them under the control of government and Communist Party Veteran Konstantin Katushev.

The Soviet news agency said the 60-year-old Katushev would head the newly formed ministry of foreign economic relations. It said the new ministry would combine the ministry of foreign trade, which had been headed by Boris Arstov, and the state committee for foreign economic relations, which Katushev had headed.

It did not say what Arstov would do. Under Gorbachev, the Soviet Union has tried to increase its foreign economic contacts.

Gorbachev is trying to improve the efficiency of Soviet production by introducing modern equipment and techniques from abroad and promoting joint economic ventures with non-socialist countries.

Iran plans to bypass Gulf to transport goods to Europe

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Sunday it had held talks with its ally Syria about increasing exports to Europe.

Deputy Roads and Transport Minister Ahmad Madani has discussed setting up two Iranian-Syrian companies to handle sea and land transport, Iran's national news agency IRNA reported.

Madani, speaking at the end of a week-long visit to Syria, said it was planned to transport Iranian goods, including fresh fruit, dried fruit and vegetables, to Europe through Syria.

The agency, received in Nicosia, quoted Madani as saying that trailer trucks would take the goods to Syrian ports. From there Iranian ships would transport them to Europe.

The agency did not explain the reason for the arrangement but Iraq, at war with Iran for seven years, repeatedly attacks Iranian merchant shipping in the Gulf.

Madani said preliminary agreement had also been reached to set up passenger train lines between Iran and Syria. The two countries do not have a common land frontier and IRNA did not say what arrangement, if any, had been reached with Turkey.

The agency said Madani had talks Saturday with Syrian Transport Minister Youssef Al Ahmad who praised Iran's support for the Palestinian cause.

British inflation rate falls to 3.7%

LONDON (AP) — Britain's annual inflation rate dipped 0.4 of a percentage point to 3.7 per cent last month, its lowest level for a year, the government has said.

The inflation rate reflects the rise in the government's retail price index, a measure of the costs of consumer goods and services, over the previous 12 months.

Inflation fell 0.4 of a point from November to December, mainly because of a fall in mortgage rates of around one per cent. Prices for automobiles and gasoline also fell, but fresh foods cost more.

Employment Secretary Norman Fowler said the Conservative government expects the annual inflation rate to rise to 4.5 per cent by the end of the year.

The average inflation rate in the 12-nation European Community is 3.3 per cent.

TASS said Katushev worked in the Communist Party apparatus for 20 years until 1977. He then became a deputy chairman of the council of ministers, or cabinet, and in 1982 was named ambassador to Cuba.

In 1985 he became chairman of the committee for foreign economic relations. Arstov also was chosen to head the ministry of foreign trade in 1985.

Report suggests military spending is much higher

Soviet military spending is probably five to seven times higher than the Kremlin admits, but may still be far below that of the United States and its allies, according to a new study by prominent Western military analysts.

"Russian traditions of secrecy and deception have always masked both strength and weakness," Professor Carl Jacobson said in the study, published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

He said the official Soviet state budgets of the 1970s and 1980s allocated barely two per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to defence.

But U.S., British and French contributors to the study, entitled "The Soviet Defence Enigma. Estimating Costs and Burden," estimated actual costs at 10 to 15 per cent of GDP.

The United States in 1986 spent 6.7 per cent of GDP on defence, said SIPRI, an international think-tank funded by Sweden's parliament.

The size of Soviet defence expenditure, crucial to Western security debates on defence and policy, has for decades been one of the most jealously guarded secrets in the world.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), piecing together information on Soviet military programmes and adding up estimated costs, set Soviet defence spending at 15-17 per cent of GDP in a 1986 study.

Scholars contributing to the

SIPRI volume analysed large unitemised funds to the Soviet budget, and available statistics about the Soviet economy and labour force, to arrive at the 10 to 15 per cent estimate.

CIA estimates in the late 1970s, suggesting a far greater Soviet military effort, helped U.S. President Ronald Reagan's defence buildup win congressional approval, they said.

Despite the Soviet Union's heavier defence burden in terms of GDP, Moscow lags far behind the U.S. in actual defence spending, according to SIPRI.

The institute put U.S. military expenditure in 1985 at \$205 billion (at 1980 prices and exchange rates), while the Soviet Union was estimated to have spent \$146 billion.

The difference was even more pronounced if other NATO members, which spent \$123 billion, were compared to the Soviet Union's Warsaw Pact allies, which spent only \$14 billion in 1985 on defence, according to SIPRI's estimates.

"The problem is that amounts of money do not measure value in the same way in both economies," SIPRI said.

The enigma surrounding Soviet military strength will remain until Moscow opens its books, Jacobson said, noting that while some Western experts think the Russians have significant hidden missile reserves, others believe part of their weapon systems are in fact dummies.

Gorbachev's civilian economic reform programmes were likely to mean a zero-growth or reduced defence budget, SIPRI said, but it warned that a reversal was likely to occur if the international situation became chilly.

"Western statesmen would do well to remember that such reversals have been frequent in Russian history, and that both governments and citizens have repeatedly tightened their belts when faced with foreign threats to their status and security," the study said.

U.S. bankers plan no more fresh lending to Third World

ANN ARBOR, Michigan (R) — U.S. regional bankers, still wrestling with precarious loans to Latin America, say they have no intention of lending more money to developing countries anytime soon.

"We have become increasingly hardened in our views on new debt," William Flynn, senior vice president of the National Bank of Detroit's international division, said last week at a conference on Third World debt.

Flynn praised the passing of the old practice of U.S. banks acting in unison to reschedule developing-country debt to a new trend of individual banks independently choosing their own methods of dealing with problem loans.

"One of the initial difficulties we had was accepting the concept of fair share and that all the banks were in this together," Flynn said.

Flynn said regional banks, defined as major banks outside New York City and California, were responsible for 35 per cent of

developing-country loans, while money centres hold 65 per cent of their books.

Flynn said the interests of the biggest, so-called money centre banks and those of the regionals were very divergent in continued lending to the Third World.

Since the foreign debt crisis erupted in 1982, banks have been dealing with the problem by lending new money so indebted nations could service interest payments.

But last year debtors and creditors became more open to a so-called menu of options, including exit bonds, debt-equity swaps, and a new Mexican bond swap plan.

"The old collective vision in dealing with the debt crisis was the banks, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank pushing together," Geoffrey Bell, chairman of London-based Guinness Mahon Bank, told the conference. "Now we are seeing people go in different directions."

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Rieger Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You would be wise not to begin any new projects or take any risks today. Instead, wind up the loose ends of some past projects, and organize your plans for the week ahead. Use your common sense.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Postpone beginning any new venture today, as your judgment is not up to par. Be sure to handle your domestic duties.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't allow a secret worry to prevent you from functioning properly. Take it easy at home with your mate tonight, and get lots of rest.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Becoming involved in an argument between a loved one and a superior would be unfortunate, so be sure you remain neutral.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This is a good day to handle the correspondence which has been accumulating. If you can't finish a letter properly now, set it aside.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Revise your budget and you'll see that your financial situation is much better than you had thought. Get plenty of rest tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Conditions at home may be a bit difficult at this time, so avoid any arguments there. Take your family out on the town for some fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Try to see what's ahead of you so that any obstacles will not take you by surprise. Avoid a friend who has an inflated ego.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A personal goal you've been trying to achieve will fall into your lap. Avoid being around any friends who tend to flout their wealth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A trip you have planned should be postponed. If you want to avoid trouble, leave your small duties at home and get them over with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This is a good day to handle the correspondence which has been accumulating. If you can't finish a letter properly now, set it aside.

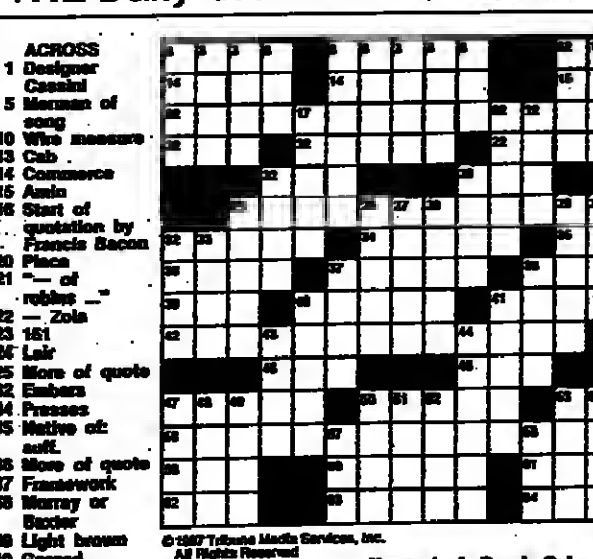
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THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin



- ACROSS
- Designer Casual
 - Man of
 - Who measure
 - Can
 - Consume
 - Radio
 - Start of
 - Question by
 - French Bacon
 - Place
 - of
 - rolling
 - Tola
 - 191
 - Lair
 - More of quote
 - Suburb
 - Process
 - Motive at
 - self
 - More of quote
 - Emerson
 - Murray or
 - Snore
 - Light beam
 - Gorge
 - Farmer move
 - More of quote
 - Conical bird
 - Die
 - Shed
 - for
 - Adm
 - Alk Force
 - women
 - End of quote
 - Related to
 - poet
 - Which
 - Shower
 - Spring month
 - Morgan
 - Flc head

- DOWN
- Elementary
 - Onion
 - Go out
 - Enthusiasm
 - Racial
 - Oak or elm
 - Hans and
 - Revis
 - "La Boheme"
 - heroin
 - Heathen deity
 - Edifice
 - Stadium
 - Stadium
 - Newman
 - Handy
 - Accompanied
 - Macbeth's
 - Wife
 - Lasso
 - Comment
 - Hope
 - Flc product
 - Shiller
 - volcano
 - look for
 - Landscape
 - him title
 - Flc part
 - Dill soup
 - Foster
 - Rock
 - Disaster
 - Shed lamp
 - Malevolence
 - at
 - Big bird
 - Unusually
 - Skunk up
 - the military
 - Had on
 - Refuge
 - At large
 - Fall month
 - Cook

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

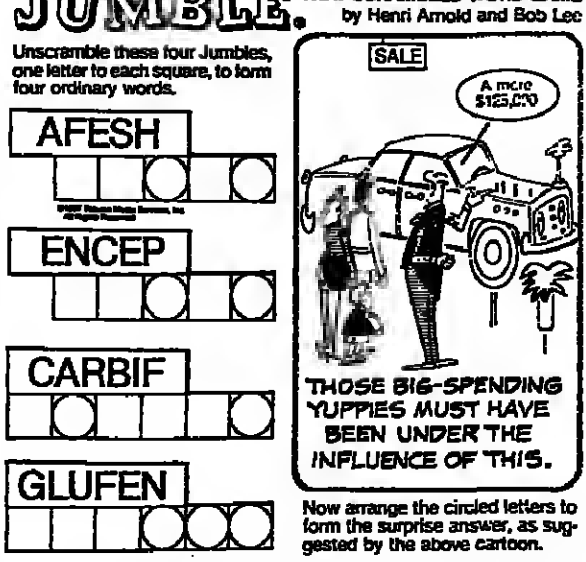


THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"Remember the meltdown at the nuclear power plant? This is the same thing, except it's my chili."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLEAM UNIFY EYELID CROTCH

Answer: What some people get when they're in hot water—COLD FEET

Ortega lifts state of emergency, accepts direct talks with contras

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has lifted a state of emergency in his country and said his government would open direct ceasefire talks with U.S.-backed rebels within a few days.

Ortega, who had said that he would never take those steps as long as war raged in Nicaragua, made the announcement Saturday at the close of a two-day Central American summit on the outskirts of San Jose.

Throughout the summit, the Nicaraguan president was under heavy pressure from other chief executives in the region to comply more fully with a peace pact signed by the five Central American leaders in Guatemala last Aug. 7.

In Miami, a contra leader told the Associated Press on Saturday that the rebels accepted Ortega's offer and would meet face to face with him. But the contra leader, Aristides Sanchez, also expressed reservations.

"His (Ortega's) intention is clear: To win time and an unfavourable vote from Congress to aid, and not a real political will to give peace, democracy and freedom to the Nicaraguan people," Sanchez said.

Sanchez is a member of the six-man directorate of the Nicaraguan Resistance. His comments were translated from Spanish by Marta Sacasa, a contra spokeswoman.

Ortega also said his government would grant amnesty to all political prisoners arrested after 1981 "immediately upon achievement of an effective ceasefire and the incorporation of armed groups into civilian life."

If no ceasefire is reached, he said, Nicaragua would free the prisoners "if the United States or any other non-Central American country decides to accept them."

He also said Nicaragua would participate in any regional elections for delegates to a proposed Central American Parliament and hold municipal elections before the country's next scheduled presidential election in 1989.

President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, one of Ortega's strongest critics in the region, said the steps announced

by the Nicaraguan leader were "not sufficient for me. It's a small step."

Duarte said Ortega should take "total, complete, immediate steps to comply" with the accord, including allowing full press freedom in Nicaragua. He also accused Ortega of continuing to aid and provide sanctuary for the leftist rebels that threaten El Salvador's government.

Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo, another sharp critic of Nicaragua's Sandinista government, was the only president who did not meet with reporters after the summit. There was no explanation, but some observers said Azcona was not happy with the outcome of the meeting.

Ortega told a news conference following the close of the summit that he was taking the steps "despite the illegal war being waged against Nicaragua by the United States." He urged Washington to "respect the will of the Central Americans" and halt all further aid to the contras.

Ortega's change of position is likely to make it more difficult for U.S. President Ronald Reagan to obtain more money for the contra war from Congress.

The Nicaraguan president said

he would return Saturday night to Managua and confer Sunday with Cardinal Miguel Obando Y. Bravo, the Roman Catholic primate who mediated two earlier, fruitless rounds of indirect ceasefire talks.

If Obando agrees to continue to act as mediator, Ortega said the talks could begin early next week in San Jose.

Ortega remained firm in demanding that the talks deal solely with the mechanics of a ceasefire, saying "We are not going to have a political dialogue with the contras."

Nicaragua freed 985 political prisoners last month, but is estimated to have another 5,000 still behind bars. The amnesty Ortega announced Saturday would affect about 2,000 of them.

The amnesty would not cover prisoners who served in the late President Anastasio Somoza's National Guard and were arrested when the Sandinistas took over in July 1979.

Ortega said he was suspending the 6-year-old emergency law by decree throughout the entire country, but reserved the right to reimpose it "if the war continues."

S. African police kill two blacks in clashes

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Police firing shotguns killed two people in clashes in a township near the town of Oudtshoorn in South Africa's Cape province.

In one incident Saturday, three blacks tried to wrest a shotgun from five policemen walking towards the township of Bongolethu, near Oudtshoorn, the police daily bulletin on civil unrest reported Sunday.

A large mob which had gathered stoned the security force members, who fired a number of shotgun rounds to ward off the attack," it said.

A mixed-race man was killed and two other people were wounded.

In a second incident a policeman shot dead one of three blacks attacking him while he was on his way to work at Bongolethu, the statement said.

Fatal clashes in South Africa's

townships involving the police have dropped sharply since a nationwide state of emergency was imposed 19 months ago. Police declined to elaborate on the causes of the outbreak of violence in Cape province.

They added that a man was hacked to death and a bus driver was shot dead in fresh violence among blacks in South Africa's worst trouble spot, the shanty towns near the Natal provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg.

At least six people were wounded. Several houses and vehicles were damaged in stoning and arson attacks, the police bulletin said.

At least 37 people have been killed this month in the Pietermaritzburg area, where two black organizations, the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Movement and the leftist United Democratic Front, are locked in a power struggle.

Aquino urges support for candidates who serve people

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino appealed Sunday for a "peaceful and honest election" and the country's military chief ordered commanders to be on alert for a possible right-wing bid to disrupt regional balloting.

The 54-year-old president issued the appeal on the eve of nationwide elections for regional and local officials, which the government said would restore full democracy to the country.

Monday's vote follows a bloody, six-week campaign in which at least 36 candidates have been slain. The military blames Communist rebels for about half the killings.

In a television statement, Aquino urged voters to support candidates "who think only of serving the Filipino people."

"Let's do our best to have a peaceful and honest election," Aquino said. "And I would like to appeal to the candidates not to forget their responsibilities to the Filipino people and not to use force and that they should serve the people first, not their own self-interest."

Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos ordered commanders to be on the alert for trouble after what he said was an intelligence report that right-wing groups led by former Brig.-Gen. Jose Zume and former Lt.-Col. Reynaldo Cabatuan might launch attacks to disrupt Monday's election.

Both officers have been linked to previous attempts to topple

Aquino's 22-month administration.

The 160,000-member armed forces went on full alert Saturday in advance of the balloting, as authorities announced three more election-related slayings. That brought the campaign death toll to at least 78.

The government-run Philippines News Agency (PNA) said commanders of Manila-area garrisons were ordered to take additional measures to secure their installations, especially at night.

On Saturday, Lt.-Gen. Renato De Villa, deputy chief of staff and commander of the Philippine Constabulary, announced troops had gone on a nationwide alert and warned that candidates would be prosecuted if caught giving Communist rebels money in exchange for being allowed to campaign freely in rebel-controlled areas.

Soldiers, hacked by police and military cadets, will guard more than 100,000 voting stations nationwide when the polls open for the election of provincial governors, mayors and other local officials. More than 160,000 candidates are running for 16,000 posts.

U.S. officials warned American military personnel and their dependents against unnecessary travel Monday to avoid being caught up in any election violence and prevent against giving the impression of U.S. interference.

Ershad may call presidential elections

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshi President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, under mounting opposition pressure to quit, has said he may call a fresh presidential election to test his popularity.

He rejected once again the constant opposition demands that he transfer power to a neutral caretaker government to ensure honest voting.

"We can go for a presidential election soon after the upcoming parliamentary polls," he said in an interview published Sunday in

the state-owned daily Dainik Bangla.

"It will give me an opportunity," he said, "to fight the election and see where I stand in terms of my own popularity."

"But there is no way I can handover power to a caretaker government. There is no such thing in our constitution."

Gen. Ershad who has ruled Bangladesh for six years, dissolved a one-year-old parliament last month after 21

opposition parties launched a massive campaign aimed at toppling his government.

He later set Feb. 28 for fresh parliamentary elections. The opposition said they would boycott the polls because past experience showed them that elections under Gen. Ershad would be rigged.

"There had been many heads of states before me who did not resign before the polls. Why then should I do that?" Gen. Ershad said.

Sri Lanka 'in contact' with Tigers

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A Sri Lanka Tamil political leader said Sunday the Sri Lankan government is making efforts to hold direct negotiations for peace with Tamil rebels.

"It is correct. Contacts are continuing. Even Sunday, I was talking of such a possibility with the Tamil Tigers, whom I wish not to identify," the political leader, Kumar Ponnambalam, who is general secretary of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress, said.

A spokesman of the Sri Lanka government would neither confirm nor deny that efforts for direct negotiations were being made through Ponnambalam.

But the independent, Tamil-language, Colombo-based, Virakesari newspaper on three occasions earlier this month claimed secret talks were under way between the Sri Lanka government and the Tamil Tigers.

Shevardnadze in Bonn on visit seen diplomatic initiative

BONN (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Bonn Sunday for a three-day visit that marks an important step in the Kremlin's revived diplomatic initiative towards West Germany.

The Kremlin has been wooing West German leaders in recent weeks amid signs that differing options on key security issues are emerging between West Germany and other NATO partners, particularly the United States.

Shevardnadze's visit is the first by a top-ranking emissary of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and the first trip by a Soviet foreign minister to West Germany in five years.

West German officials have been touting the Soviet foreign minister's visit as a key step towards improving relations be-

tween the two nations. Chancellor Helmut Kohl has said better relations with Moscow are a top priority for 1988.

"This is an important visit, not only for our two countries, but for Europe as well," Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said in welcoming Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze, speaking in a brief arrival statement, referred to recent improvements in East-West relations.

"This meeting is being held on the basis of the positive developments that have been achieved (in East-West relations) in recent months," he said.

The Soviet minister also indicated he would discuss a possible West German visit by Gorbachev during his talks with Bonn officials.

Army unit grants refuge to Argentine mutineer

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine army fugitive mutineer Aldo Rico and an undetermined number of followers took refuge Saturday in an army unit in the northern province of Corrientes, the army command said in a statement early Sunday.

The statement said the cashiered lieutenant colonel "and some of his followers occupied" the Fourth Infantry Regiment in Monte Caseros, some 620 kilometres north of Buenos Aires.

The army said it had begun preparations for the "recovery of the military installations and the capture of the rebels."

The state telephone company Entel cut all lines with Monte Caseros.

The local news agency Diarios Y Noticias quoted a telegram allegedly sent to all army units by the commander of the army unit, Lieutenant Colonel Hector Alvarez Igarzabal, pledging his support for Rico.

The alleged telegram quoted Alvarez Igarzabal as saying that he "supports the execution of operations in dignity," the code name for the officers' rebellion Rico led against the army command last April.

The bespectacled Rico, a 45-year-old commando, was a champion of junior officers in the Argentine army seeking a purge in the high command.

Najib confirms Soviet pullout if U.N. talks are successful

MOSCOW (AP) — The withdrawal of Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan is no longer in question and will occur this year if U.N.-sponsored talks are successful, TASS quoted Afghan leader Najib as saying Saturday.

The comments by the leader of Afghanistan's pro-Soviet government appeared to be his first mention to his own people of the

timetable put forth by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze earlier this month.

Shevardnadze visited the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Jan. 5-7 and told the Afghan News Agency Bakhtar that the Soviets would like to pull their estimated 115,000 soldiers out of the country by the end of the year.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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PLAY OR DEFEND?

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 8 6
♥ A Q 9 8
♦ J 5 4 2
♣ 10

WEST
♠ K 5
♥ 10 7 6 2
♦ A K 9
♣ J 8 4 3

EAST
♠ Q 7 4
♥ 5 4 3
♦ Q 10 7 6
♣ K 5 2

SOUTH
♠ 10 9 3 2
♥ K J
♦ 8 2
♣ A Q 9 7 6

The bidding:
North East South West

1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass

2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

4♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Bridge in South Africa was probably the first activity in that country to become desegregated. A few years ago, however, pressure from many countries forced South Africa out of world competition. As a result, the only exposure its players have had to international competition has been from visiting teams. The last squad to make such a tour was a German group. This hand is from their match against a selected South African team.

tion is specifically 4-4-1-1. They feel that gives them maximum flexibility since they can handle any response. It worked well here, and a reasonable four spade contract was reached. Decide whether you would rather play or defend this contract after West leads the king of diamonds and continues with the ace and another.

At first glance, it might seem that, because of the split trump honors, you can hold your losers to two diamonds and a spade. Ruff the third diamond and take a losing trump finesse, then get back to your hand with a heart to repeat the finesse. However, that line has a flaw. After winning the queen of spades, East can lead a fourth diamond, allowing West to score his king of spades by overruffing declarer.

That defense should not be too difficult to visualize, but declarer does have an elegant counter. After ruffing the diamond, declarer should cash the king of hearts and overtake the jack with the queen to take the club finesse! When that wins, declarer discards dummy's last diamond on the ace of clubs and now leads a trump.

Assume the ten rides to East's queen (it doesn't help for West to cover). East's diamond return is ruffed in dummy, after which declarer returns to hand with a heart ruff to lead a second round of trumps. When the king appears, it is all over—the table is high.

Dole takes aim at Bush during debate

HANOVER, New Hampshire (R) — U.S. Senate Republican leader Robert Dole went on the offensive in a raucous presidential debate here on Saturday with barbs aimed at all his rivals, but chiefly at Vice President George Bush.

Despite his assertion earlier this week that he was prepared to bury the hatchet after a series of earlier exchanges with the vice president, Dole went after Bush, who is favoured to get the Republican presidential nomination, from the opening gun.

Dole, a key figure in a 1983 accord that propped up a financially ailing retirement programme, needed Bush over campaign literature which, Dole said, gave the vice president credit for the rescue package.

"I don't recall George being in the (decision-making) loop then either. I don't think he attended a single meeting," Dole said in a sardonic dig at Bush for the trans-contra scandal.

Bush, dogged by the scandal almost constantly since a Jan. 7 news report that he was more deeply involved in the operation than he had acknowledged, has defended himself by saying he was excluded from key meetings

and did not have all the details of the arms transaction.

In his only comment on the arms deal, Bush chided debate moderator John Chancellor for raising the issue.

"You in the media have a fascination with Iran that I don't think the American people are interested in right now... The questions have been answered," Bush said.

Saturday's debate was the first session among Republicans in New Hampshire, which holds the country's first presidential primary election on Feb. 16.

The latest Gallup poll showed Bush with a 15-point lead over Dole. New York Representative Jack Kemp, whose anti-tax philosophy is popular here, was in third place.

Former Delaware Governor Pierre Du Pont, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, and former Television Evangelist Pat Robertson were far behind in that poll.

The session was also the last Republican debate prior to the Feb. 8 Iowa party meetings that traditionally kick off the nominating process. Polls show Dole run-

ning ahead of Bush in that state.

Dole criticised Bush's campaign staff for circulating a newspaper article that raised questions about the management of his wife Elizabeth's Blind Trust.

Visibly angry that the Bush campaign seemed to be taking aim at his wife, the former secretary of transportation, the Kansas lawmaker belittled the Bush campaign for "these little games that people play from time to time."

Meanwhile Democratic presidential hopefuls Paul Simon and Jesse Jackson talked about racial problems among blacks and Jews during campaign stops.

Former Governor Pete Du Pont of Delaware, citing the use of "tainted petitions," asked that his name be withdrawn from the Texas Republican primary.

Speaking before the debate, Du Pont said he had not known of the irregularities in Texas and blamed the furnishing of phony signatures on "the behaviour of a few."

"I refuse to benefit in any way from those tainted petitions so I have this morning asked the Republican Party to withdraw my application to be on the Republican primary ballot in Texas," he said.

Andreotti criticises Franco-German defence drive

ROME (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti has criticised a Franco-German drive to strengthen West European defence ties, saying it could increase pressure in the United States to pull out American troops.

In an interview in the newspaper La Repubblica on Sunday, he said it was dangerous to distinguish between European and American defence forces and that France and West Germany risked creating a new "Maginot line" of false security.

"As for the accord between Paris and Bonn, I dispute the idea that the real problem of European cohesion lies in creating an autonomous European defence policy and I therefore consider it an error," Andreotti said.

"If we... do not consider the permanence of the Americans and Canadians in European defence essential, we risk encouraging certain groups in America which, for economic and budgetary reasons among others, would like to reduce greatly their presence in Europe," he said.

France and West Germany are moving towards formation of a joint combat brigade. They agreed last November to set up a joint defence council as part of a drive to establish a "European identity" in Western strategic policy.

They have urged other European NATO members to join the drive, which has gathered pace in light of the planned elimination of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles from Western Europe under last month's U.S.-Soviet arms treaty.

Prime Minister Giovanni Goria responded warily to the scheme when French President Francois Mitterrand raised it at a meeting in Naples in November but Andreotti's comments in La Repubblica were considerably more blunt.

He said a U.S. and Canadian troop presence in Europe might one day become unnecessary if the disarmament process launched by December's U.S.-Soviet treaty continued.

France broke from NATO's military command in 1966 and maintains a nuclear deterrent independent of the U.S.-led alliance, which includes both Italy and West Germany.

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Archaeological museum inaugurated

SYRACUSE, Sicily (AP) — Visitors to a new archaeological museum will be given a clearer view of the past of this Sicilian city, which was one of the most important centres of the ancient Greek World. Minister of Culture Carlo Vizzini and other government officials participated in the afternoon ceremony opening the Paolo Orsi Museum, named after the Italian archaeologist who conducted the first systematic excavations of Sicily in the 20th century. The exhibits, which were transferred from a smaller museum in the oldest part of this coastal city, include marble and terracotta statues, ceramics, jewellery and other pieces ranging from the stone age to the 5th century B.C. To these have been added new finds which were unearthed during the recent excavations in the oldest parts of Syracuse and the surrounding countryside. The chronologically structured exhibits centre around the prehistory of eastern Sicily, beginning in the 15th century B.C., when the Greeks first travelled to Sicily. In the 8th century, citizens of the Greek city of Comint colonised Syracuse, making it the island's most important city.

Prince may be charged for reckless driving

LONDON (R) — Prince Michael of Kent, a member of the British Royal Family and president of the Royal Automobile Club, could face criminal charges over allegations of reckless driving in an 84-year-old car, police said Saturday. The 45-year-old prince drove dangerously and hogged the road in a 1903 Gordon Bennett Napier car during the London-to-Brighton vintage car rally last November, five rally participants told police. Prince Michael, Queen Elizabeth's first cousin, denied the allegations but police said they had asked the director of public prosecutions to consider whether charges should be filed.

Postmen halt deliveries under dog menace

LONDON (R) — Postmen have suspended mail deliveries to 254 flats in a West London housing complex because they are afraid of menacing dogs on the loose, a British politician said Saturday. Conservative Harry Greenway told reporters the move was unprecedented and said he would raise the dog issue in parliament.

Backyard cemetery to be demolished

BRESCIA, Italy (R) — Pietro Baroni built a family cemetery in his garden but kept rabbits in the empty vaults after his relatives denounced it as ghastly. Magistrates fined him 6.67 million lire (\$5,500) Saturday for building the tombs without permission, ordered him to demolish them, and sentenced him to five days in jail. Baroni, 55, spent several years constructing eight burial vaults in his garden for himself and his family. The do-it-yourself project caused uproar among his neighbours.

New AIDS treatment tested in U.K.

LONDON (R) — An Israeli-developed AIDS treatment derived from egg-yolk is being tested secretly in a leading London teaching hospital, the Sunday Telegraph said. Doctors were keeping the name of the hospital secret to avoid attracting AIDS victims who might believe the AL721 formula was a cure for the killer disease. Only a handful of patients were being treated with the formula at the hospital and the newspaper quoted doctors as saying it could be six months before its effectiveness was known. Research in the United States has shown that AL721, a combination of lipids (fats) found in egg yolks, repressed the activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol needed by the virus to penetrate white blood cells. The substance, which looks like margarine, was developed originally as a cancer treatment by Professor Meir Shinitzky of Israel's Weizmann Institute. Manufacturing rights were acquired by a U.S. drug company. The Sunday Telegraph said tests began at the London Hospital before Christmas and patients spread the compound on toast and crackers or mixed it into fruit juice. Dr. Yehuda Skornick of Tel Aviv's Roshak Hospital said last March he had conducted a pilot study using the drug on 14 acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) patients and all showed an improvement.

Kerosene pollutes Moscow water

MOSCOW (AP) — City officials have told the U.S. embassy that kerosene seeped into the Moscow water supply, giving the water in parts of the city an unpleasant taste and odor, an embassy spokeswoman said Saturday. Marguerite Squire told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that officials of the Moscow Sanitary Inspection Service identified the pollutant in a meeting with U.S. embassy Doctor Stanley Wolfe and Science Counselor John Ward. The Moscow officials said there was no more kerosene in the water but the embassy was advising Americans not to drink it until an independent analysis is completed, Squire said, citing an embassy notice to Americans living in Moscow. She said she did not know where the water was sent for analysis, or when the results would be known. The official press reported Wednesday that an oil product leaked into the Moscow water system when a pipe broke Jan. 6 at a watch factory west of Moscow. It said the pollutant seeped into a tributary of the Moscow river and from there into the city water supply. Two days later, residents began noticing a foul smell and discoloration of the water.

Poll finds Soviets more upbeat

WASHINGTON (AP) — A survey conducted in Moscow and Washington found Soviets more upbeat but possibly less informed about bilateral issues than Americans, a U.S. pollster says. Because scientific opinion polling is new and relatively untested in the Soviet Union, the fact that joint sampling was taken may be as significant as the results, said John P. Robinson of the University of Maryland. Results of the survey were released Saturday. "The point is that we are getting going on these things," Robinson said in an interview. Telephone samplings of Moscow residents found that 42 per cent viewed the outcome of the meeting in Washington last month between President Ronald Reagan and Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev as "very good," compared with 25 per cent of the Washington residents polled who felt the same way. The poll also found that 53 per cent of those polled in Moscow had not heard of the Berlin Wall, compared with 86 per cent of the Americans surveyed who were aware of the barrier erected by Communist East Germany and the Soviet Union to divide the German city. The poll is the third conducted by Robinson and Vladimir Andreyenko, the head of the Methodology Section at the Institute for Sociological Research at the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Stowaway cat to go home

LONDON (AP) — Felix the stowaway cat is going home, the final leg of an extremely roundabout trip. After logging about 180,000 miles (288,000 kilometres) during 29 days in the baggage hold of a Pan Am jet, Felix is getting a free flight home to Los Angeles next week. "I just want to see her. I just want to hold her. To me, it's a miracle," said Janice Kubecki, the cat's owner. Pan Am employee Jane Ford, who "took the cat under her wing," will escort Felix on the flight to reunite her with Mrs. Kubecki and her husband, William, airline officials said. The stowaway's story began Dec. 3 when the 2-year-old female Calico broke out of her travel container during a flight from Frankfurt, West Germany, to Los Angeles. The Kubeckis were moving from Europe to Edwards Air Force Base, California. The cat apparently traipsed back to the cargo hold of the Boeing 747 and called it home for 29 days — during which time the plane made 64 flights, covering 179,189 air miles (286,702 air kilometres) between Europe, the United States and South America. A London baggage handler spotted Felix in the cargo hold early New Year's Eve, but he couldn't catch her before the plane was scheduled to take off again. Finally, airline workers in London coaxed her out from behind a bulkhead on New Year's Day.